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The Courier Leader

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Area towns to hold Memorial Day services

LAWRENCE

Lawrence will hold a Memorial Day Parade at 10 a.m., Monday, May 25, with a service to follow at Lawrence Village Park. Over 1,000 luminaries, representing Lawrence area military veterans, will be on display at Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, at approximately 8:30 p.m.

LAWTON

The Village of Lawton will hold a Memorial Day Parade, May 25, sponsored by the American Legion. Participants are asked to assemble at 9 a.m. at the intersection of Railroad and Second Street, from where the parade will begin its route down Second Street at 10 a.m., ending at Oak Grove Cemetery with a ceremony to follow. Residents are encouraged to reach out to the American Legion at (269) 624-1367 for more information and updates.

MATTAWAN

A Memorial Day Parade will be held in Mattawan, Monday, May 25, at 10:30 a.m. A service will follow in Mattawan Memorial Park, downtown, at 11 a.m.

PAW PAW TO HOLD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

PAW PAW - Paw Paw's annual Memorial Day services will be held Monday, May 25, with the annual parade starting at 10 a.m. from the Bistro 120 parking lot, via Michigan Avenue to the Veterans Memorial Park for services.

Deputies honored for lifesaving efforts

On May 12, 2026, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jason Erickson, Deputy Cody Bingaman, K-9 Charlie, and Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Larry Weers were honored during the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners meeting for their actions during an incident that occurred on April 17, 2026. The awards were presented by Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott and Undersheriff Casey Davis.

During the incident, Deputy Erickson responded to a report of a suspicious abandoned vehicle located in a residential backyard. Through his investigation, Deputy Erickson determined the vehicle was registered out of Jackson, Michigan. After conducting several phone interviews and investigative actions, he developed concerns that the driver may have been experiencing a medical emergency and had wandered away from the vehicle.

Sergeant Weers responded and deployed the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office drone while coordinating search efforts with Deputy Bingaman and K-9 Charlie. K-9 Charlie successfully tracked from the vehicle to a nearby river while Sergeant Weers utilized the drone's infrared capabilities to search the surrounding area.

Deputy Bingaman and K-9 Charlie ultimately located the 79-year-old driver in the river while Sergeant Weers maintained aerial observation with the drone. Deputy Bingaman then placed himself at personal risk by entering the river and pulling the man to safety. Deputies immediately coordinated with medical personnel to ensure the individual received emergency medical treatment and transport to the hospital.

Without the quick thinking, teamwork, and dedication displayed by Deputy Erickson, Deputy Bingaman, K-9 Charlie, and Sergeant Weers, the outcome could have been tragic, according to Sheriff Abbott.

Deputy Erickson and Sergeant Weers were each awarded the Sheriff's Award of Excellence. Deputy Bingaman and K-9 Charlie were honored with the Life Saving Award for their heroic actions.

Sheriff Abbott and Undersheriff Davis extended their appreciation to these officers for their professionalism, dedication, and willingness to use every available resource to help save a life.

"The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office is proud of the outstanding service these individuals continue to provide to our community every day," said Sheriff Abbott.

Veterans' monuments undergo restoration at Lawton cemetery

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
new4garrod@gmail.com

LAWTON – What began as a project last fall to restore tombstones of service veterans buried in a Lawton cemetery, doing it out of the goodness of her heart to help out, continued last Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17.

Laurie Bastian, of Lawton, and a group of approximately 20 volunteers, from all walks of life, returned to Oak Grove Cemetery, Lawton. There, the group spent Saturday and Sunday restoring old and weathered and sometimes buried tombstones from the sprawling cemetery.

"We need to remember our veterans," said Lawton American Legion Waters-Hackenberg Post 220 Commander Lyle Paterala-Streeter, who joined the group on Saturday.

Last fall, Bastian asked the post if it would consider reimbursing her for initial cemetery cleaning supplies of just over $60. They responded and more than doubled her request, offering her $150 for her work supplies.

In restoring the tombstones, Bastian uses a three-step process, spray with water, a second scrub, and "a lot of elbow grease," then D-2 to eat away the bacteria.

Bastian said she is very appreciative of the many individuals and businesses who stepped up to volunteer services or food. The list included Pizza Hut, lunch donation; Ace Hardware, Paw Paw; Tractor Supply, Paw Paw; the Harris Family, Lawton, who provided refreshments; Zach Richards, of Edward Jones, who donated brushes; Adams Hardware, Lawton, pails; Victoria Zeimer, a monetary donation; Flory Septic, Lawton American Legion Waters-Hackenberg Post 220, and the Village of Lawton.

The cemetery experienced a recent act of vandalism that caused water to be shut off to the cemetery. Brian Cronenwett, of Cronenwett Farms, donated the use of a retired Lawton fire truck and a tank full of water.

"The community came together," said Bastian. "It was an awesome thing," she said.

Bastian, who began tracing her genealogy, soon expanded her work to tombstone restoration. She has expanded her work to include tombstone repair, and has started her own business, Bastian's Monument Cleaning and Repair, which she does in addition to her fulltime job.

Bastian's interest in tombstone restoration, has also seen a spark in interest in different memberships associated with the Lawton American Legion. Last fall, Paterala-Streeter said there was decline in post membership. At that time, the post had nine active members, with six of those members in their late 60s.

Paterala-Streeter has been a member for the past three and a half years, after first being approached over five and a half years ago to join.

A legion auxiliary chapter was formed, according to Paterala-Streeter, and now sports over 20 individuals, with Bastian herself, joining the auxiliary chapter. Paterala-Streeter said more than 20 members make up the Sons of the American Legion.

Paterala-Streeter, a Marine veteran, said individuals who would like to financially assist Bastian in her restoration efforts may do so by sending checks to Lawton American Legion Waters-Hackenberg Post 220, P.O. Box 253, Lawton, MI., 49065. In the memo line, write tombstone restoration.

In closing, Bastian said she is proud to be a part of such a caring community. She would like to make it an annual community event.

Paw Paw High School Class of 2026 Academic Elite announced

Paw Paw Public Schools recently announced the Class of 2026 Academic Elite students. Shown in the front row, from left, Caitlyn Crafts, Isabella McReynolds, Kassidy Derhammer, Emily Roy, Kate Rentschler, Aili Shaughnessy, and Ava Klimczak; in the second row, from left, Mykayla Hough, Amelia Farrell, Alexia Curry, Kailey Nichols, Meagan Miller, Leah Graves, and Lindsey Kerby; in the back row, from left, Isabella McCrossin, Truman Brennan, Caleb Kenyon, Calvin Ranger, Austin Ackerman, and Alex Groner. Missing from photo, Blake Balon, Raegan Hiestand, Zackary Houser, Kaela Jewell, Zachary Mahan, Addison McLeese, Carter Miner, Mariela Pantoja, Grant Sholander, and Jessica Stately

Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Public Schools

Paw Paw community remembers David Richardson

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw community came together on Thursday May 14, to remember a man who was born and raised in Paw Paw, and who gave back in many ways to his community through serving on community government, as a 60-year-plus member of the Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Department, and as a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Paw Paw.

David Lloyd Richardson passed away peacefully, with family at his side, in the comfort of his home on May 4, 2026. He was born at home in Paw Paw on July 3, 1931.

Richardson graduated from Paw Paw High School, then served his country in the Korean War. During Richardson's service in the Navy from 1951 to 1955, he was stationed on the USS Destroyer McKean DDR 784. During that time, he attained the rank of Machinist Mate First Class. He was awarded Korea, China and National Defense Service medals. Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Richardson attended Michigan State University. After two years at the East Lansing college, he returned home to help his father with the family business.

When his father, Lloyd, retired, Dave took over the business that the two had built together – painting, wallpapering, and refinishing floors.

Richardson served as a member of the Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Department for more than 60 years, joining in 1960. It was eight years later when Richardson served as fire chief of the fire department. The year also marked the fire department's 100th anniversary. He was also around to celebrate the fire department's 150th anniversary.

Richardson's legacy on the fire department continues today as seen through his two sons, Kirk and Steve, and twograndsons, Kyle and Tyler, all who continue to serve on the fire department.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Bonnie.

Richardson and his wife, Bonnie, whom he married in1964, were active members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Both volunteered in youth group leadership, while Dave served as an usher and an Elder. They were also involved in 4-H through their children.

Richardson served on the Paw Paw Village Council as a trustee or village president for nearly 20 years and as Paw Paw Township supervisor for 16 years. His many years of community service were recognized when he was inducted into the Paw Paw High School Hall of Fame in 2015.

Richardson is survived by his daughter, Christine Richardson; two sons, Kirk (Tami) Richardson and Steve (Stephanie) Richardson; five grandchildren, Kyle, Tyler, Spencer, Stuart and Samantha. He is also survived by a brother-in-law, Ronnie Essig (Bonnie's twin) and Clifford (Angela) Essig.

Siblings donate Korean War soldier statue in honor of father who recently passed

LAWRENCE - William "Bill" Sousley was a proud Air Force veteran during the Korean War. He was a member of the Lawrence American Legion Hess-Eastman Post 174 for over 50 years, according to his daughter, Kim Thompson.

During the past 20 years, Bill donated money each month to ensure that all veterans were recognized with memorials or statues in Washington, D.C. Those he was most passionate about, according to Thompson, were the WASPs (the forgotten women of World War II who transported planes to the front lines – without ammunition), the Tuskegee Airmen (America's first African-American military aviators who faced severe segregation and compiled an elite combat record), and the Korean War memorials.

According to his daughter, Bill was proud that Lawrence honored local veterans and had established the Lawrence Veterans Cemetery. "He felt that it was the best in the state and especially loved that Lawrence Township was starting to add military soldier statues to the memorial," said Thompson.

When Sousley passed away at the age of 93, his children, Thompson and Kelly Sousley, looked for a way to honor their father. Both quickly agreed that a Korean War soldier statue was the best way to honor him and the rest of the Korean War veterans.

A telephone call to Scott Earls, Lawrence Township Cemetery sexton, put Sousley's two children in touch with SVJ Creative Solutions. The company had provided the first statue honoring World War I soldiers. The two were told by SVJ Creative Solutions that it currently only had one WWI statue; however, it was for another customer. When the company learned that Sousley's children wanted to donate it during their father's funeral and military ceremony, SVJ made a telephone call to the other customer, who graciously asked that the existing statue be sold to the Sousleys and SVJ could make another for them at a later date.

The two siblings made a road trip to Kellogg, Minn. to pick up the statue. The statue was placed on a 16-foot double-axel trailer facing backwards, uncovered. The soldier statue "had their six" all the way back to Michigan. Numerous waves, horns, and a semi escort for over three hours showed that there are many patriots in this country and it was an uplifting experience for both, according to Thompson.

The statue was placed near the Korean Wall board, which lists the names of all those from Lawrence who served in the Korean War, and it was officially donated to Lawrence Township and the Lawrence American Legion Hess-Eastman Post 174, on May 16, in memory of William "Bill" Sousley and all Korean War soldiers.

Lawton Village Council hears update on library work

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
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LAWTON - On May 12, Lawton Village Council members received an update to work being currently done at the Lawton Public Library.

Library Director Lyn Tone said the library ceiling is finished. There were 72 cracks, and 12 leaks reported where a skylight was. The library front door is now equipped with an ADA button. She also asked about the library back wall. The village will have someone investigate it and report back to the village on the extent of the damage to the wall. The village will get back to the library once they receive an update.

Council member Judith Peterson made a motion to approve a proposal from Lawton Handyman for several renovations to the village offices for an amount not to exceed $10,000.

Council member Gail Dudek told fellow council members that she is disappointed with the plantings on Main Street by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and further said that MDOT is not maintaining the plantings as promised to.

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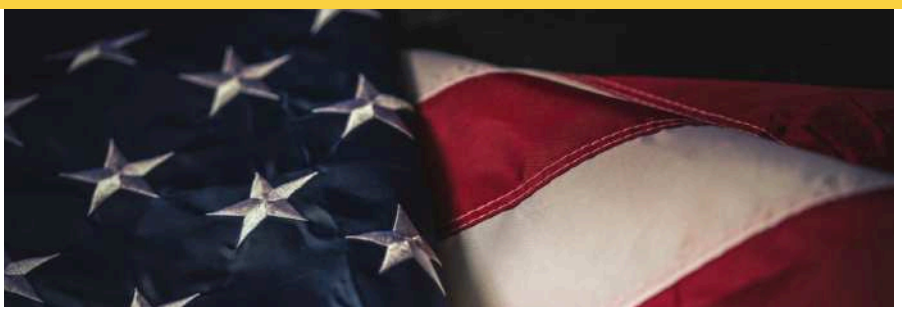

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THIS MEMORIAL DAY
Sending warm wishes to you and your family on this day of remembrance.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Commissioners approve levy of county-wide Parks and Recreation millage

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
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PAW PAW - On Tuesday, May 12, Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved a levy of a county-wide Parks and Recreation millage of .10 mill (1/10) tax levy and passed a resolution to implement the millage.

Earlier this year, the Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Commission completed and adopted the Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan 2026–2030.

The plan establishes six primary goals: preserving and maintaining county park assets; leveraging partnerships and grant opportunities; investing in universal accessibility improvements; considering creation of a parks and recreation management position or department; maintaining a comprehensive inventory of county recreational resources; and supporting local municipalities with recreation planning efforts.

Capital improvement priorities include upgrades to existing park facilities and the Hartford Kayak Launch; trail and water access improvements; natural resource conservation; signage, parking, and accessibility pathways; and future countywide recreation development projects.

To assist in funding these identified priorities, the Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners adopt a .10 mill (1/10) tax levy.

The millage will generate approximately $460,000 to be used for the purpose of funding specific priorities, capital improvements, maintenance, and recreational initiatives identified in the Van Buren County Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan 2026-2030.

Commissioners approved the payment of $41,200 for a TruNarc Delta Analyzer, a handheld device used by law enforcement to quickly and safely identify suspected narcotics in the field.

The device operates using Raman spectroscopy, which directs a laser at a substance and analyzes how the light scatters to determine its chemical composition. This allows officers to identify drugs without opening the package, reducing exposure to hazardous substances such as fentanyl.

Key features of the device include:

- Non-contact testing through plastic or glass containers
- Rapid results, typically within seconds
- A preloaded drug library capable of identifying hundreds of controlled substances
- Data storage and reporting capabilities suitable for evidentiary use.

The device also allows for immediate printing of test results, which can be used for court proceedings.

The implementation of this device has significantly reduced the need for frequent trips to the Grand Rapids Crime Lab for narcotics testing. As a result, it saves investigators several hours of travel time each week and reduces fuel costs associated with those trips.

The Sheriff's Office applied for a grant to purchase a TruNarc Delta Analyzer for $41,200. This grant was approved, and money has been distributed for the item.

In another area, Commissioners approved that pursuant to Section 51 of the Drain code, the Van Buren County Drain Commissioner, in his discretion, may require a cash deposit to cover the estimated preliminary costs, in an amount determined by the Drain Commissioner as sufficient, associated with any application to lay out and designate a drainage district.

Commissioners approved the use of the paved county-owned parking lots adjacent to the Van Buren Youth fairgrounds - specifically those serving the Department of Health and Human Services Building and former Health Department Building - for overflow parking during the Van Buren County Youth Fair, July 20-25, outside of posted county business hours.

Van Buren Tech hosts annual mock disaster

LAWRENCE - The annual Mock Disaster, led by Van Buren Tech, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) center of Van Buen Intermediate School District (VBISD), once again demonstrated the power of hands-on, real-world learning through career and technical education.

This year's large-scale emergency simulation, held Tuesday, May 12, was a complete surprise to students and participants, creating an authentic, high-pressure training environment designed to mirror the unpredictability of real emergencies. As smoke filled the air, sirens echoed across the scene, and chaos unfolded at the fictional "Food Truck Frenzy," students from multiple Van Buren Tech programs sprang into action.

The scenario involved a drunk pizza bus driver crashing into a pole at the crowded food truck fair, triggering a chain reaction of emergencies. A turkey fryer ignited into a grease flash fire, multiple vendor booths caught fire, a domestic dispute erupted between vendors, and an undercover human trafficking operation disguised as an ice cream and candy stand added another layer of complexity for responding agencies. A medical helicopter was also dispatched to assist with emergency response efforts.

Students from numerous Van Buren Tech programs collaborated throughout the simulation, including EMT, Fire Science Academy, Law Enforcement, Patient Care, Allied Health, Cosmetology, and Culinary Arts. Cosmetology students created hyper-realistic special effects injury makeup, playing a critical role in building the authenticity of the disaster scene. Patient Care and Allied Health students assisted with patient stabilization and emergency support, while Culinary Arts students catered the event for responders, volunteers, and participants.

The event brought together students and emergency responders from across the region, allowing participants to experience coordinated, multi-agency emergency response in real time. "It's an all-discipline, scenario-based learning event, and it incorporates all of our young students and all of our area responders," said Jeromy Robertson. "It's designed to help them experience what a large-scale scenario would be."

The annual Mock Disaster, led by Van Buren Tech, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) center of Van Buen Intermediate School District (VBISD), once again demonstrated the power of hands-on, real-world learning through career and technical education.
Photos courtesy/Van Buren Intermediate School District

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott emphasized the value of exposing students to different emergency response approaches. "There were many different law enforcement agencies here, so they're not only looking at it from one agency's perspective," Abbott said. "Students get the opportunity to see how multiple agencies respond and work together during emergencies."

For students, the experience provided lessons far beyond the classroom. "This scenario really opened my eyes," said Elizabeth Shaer, who plans to attend Grand Valley State University in the fall to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice and has secured a summer internship with a local law enforcement department. "In situations like this, you have to stay focused and carry out your responsibilities. In an active emergency, the work is constant and requires your full attention. You must be prepared to make an arrest when necessary and then move on to the next task."

The Mock Disaster not only prepares students for technical careers in emergency services and healthcare but also reinforces leadership, communication, critical thinking, and decision-making under pressure. Through immersive, collaborative experiences like the Mock Disaster, Van Buren Tech continues to provide students with meaningful career-connected learning opportunities that prepare them for both college and the workforce.

Veterans' banners placed in Paw Paw

The Paw Paw Veterans of Foreign Wars 2532 on Monday, May 18, with the help of Paw Paw Department of Public works staff, placed 30 service veterans' banners on poles throughout downtown Paw Paw. Another 20 banners are to be placed in June. In other photo, Roman Plaszczak, Paw Paw Village Council president, holds a banner with his photo. Plaszczak, an Army veteran, served in Vietnam. Interested persons wishing to have a banner made for a service man or woman can contact Barb Alden at: barb.alden@yahoo.com.
Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

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Astronomer discusses dark skies and light pollution

Types of Light Pollution
1. Sky Glow – sky is lit up
2. Light Trespass – light goes where it doesn't belong
3. Glare – light shining in people's eyes
SPEAKERS SERIES OF SOUTH HAVEN

By James Windell

Light pollution, as defined by astronomer Dr. Anne Blackwell, means inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light. And light pollution happens when unshielded or poorly aimed outdoor lights send light upward. This atmospheric scattering creates "sky glow" – and that can outshine faint starlight.

So why do we light up the night sky?

According to Dr. Blackwell, who spoke to 100 people at the Speakers Series of South Haven on Thursday, May 14, 2026, we light up the night sky because of faulty assumptions.

"Research shows no clear consensus linking increased lighting with reduced crime," she told the audience at Lake Michigan College. She cited the Chicago Alley Study, conducted in 2000, which found that increased lighting coincided with increased nighttime crime in the studied alleys.

Instead of bringing special benefits to nature and humans, night-time light pollution has negative consequences on wildlife and human health. Blackwell said that birds are affected by "ALAN" – Artificial Light at Night. "Because birds migrate at night," Blackwell pointed out, "they become disoriented by artificial lights and collide with buildings or circle until exhaustion." She estimated that up to a billion birds are killed annually from building collisions.

In addition, she said that insects are also strongly impacted by ALAN. "ALAN is considered an overlooked contributor alongside habitat loss, pesticides, invasive species, and climate change for the loss of insects," she said.

Also, there are human health factors brought about by light pollution. Blackwell's remarks centered on circadian rhythm disruption and melatonin suppression, especially from blue-rich light.

Blackwell emphasized that the goal is not "no lighting," but rather "lighting with purpose and intention." She referred to South Haven's Phoenix Street lighting as "decent" and moving in the right direction. She singled out the storefront lighting at the shop Crescent Moon, on Broadway in South Haven, as "phenomenal" due to recessed and hidden bulbs as well as effective downward illumination.

She said that as an Ann Arbor resident and graduate student at the University of Michigan, she worked both with U of M and the City of Ann Arbor to adopt appropriate lighting policies and ordinances. She said she had reviewed South Haven's ordinance and praised it for its detail, especially on light trespass – light illuminating over property lines. She said she planned to share South Haven's ordinance as an example to her organization

Blackwell said that she enjoyed camping at some of Michigan's designated Dark Sky Parks and Preserves. She touted these areas, such as Headlands International Dark Sky Park, Keweenaw Dark Sky Park, and Dr. T.K. Lawless Park, as ideal environments for stargazing.

The program ended with Blackwell inviting the audience to sign up with Michigan Dark Skies, an organization to educate and inform about light pollution and its effects on wildlife and human health, at https://darkskymichigan.org.

New Paw Paw Fire truck arrives

The Paw Paw Fire Department took delivery of a new fire engine on Saturday, May 16. The new fire engine committee was formed in the summer of 2022 and included committee members Jim Jackson, Jim DeGroff, IV, Trent DeGroff, Sr., Jason Johnson, Brandon Hall, Nate Jackson and Kyle Richardson. The order was placed with E-One Fire Apparatus in April 2023. The truck's cab was built in Ocala, Fla., before being shipped to Hamburg, New York, where the rest of the truck was assembled. "A lot of planning took place in order for the needs of the department and community to be met. The department is very excited to put this engine into service as it will serve the citizens of Paw Paw for many years to come," said Paw Paw Fire Chief Kyle Richardson. Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

OBITUARIES

Diane Grace (Hoger) Snellgrose

Diane Grace (Hoger) Snellgrose, 85, formerly of Paw Paw, Michigan, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026, at her home in North Fort Myers, Florida.

Diane was born on August 5, 1940, in Paw Paw, Michigan, to Wayne and Harriet (Wiersba) Hoger.

She was a proud graduate of Paw Paw High School, Class of 1958. During her high school years, Diane was deeply involved in student life, serving as President of the Thespian Club, Choir President, and Vice President of her senior class. She was also a cheerleader and participated in many other activities. She cherished these memories and often spoke of them fondly.

On May 5, 1962, she married Harold Wayne Snellgrose in Paw Paw. They shared 49 years of marriage until Harold's passing in 2011.

Diane worked for the Division of Forestry in Naples and Fort Myers, Florida, for over a decade. She began as a fire tower lookout and later became a dispatcher. During her time there, she proudly portrayed Smokey the Bear at local school events and fundraisers, helping to promote fire safety. One of her favorite memories included riding in a helicopter while in costume. She loved every minute of it, despite the Florida heat and the costume's weight.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her sister, Bonnie Lou Farmer; her brothers, David Hoger and Arthur "AJ" Hoger; and her grandson, Cameron Wayne Snellgrose.

Diane is survived by her children: Jeff (Myra) Nisbet of St. Petersburg, Florida; Tim Snellgrose of Naples, Florida; Hal (Karen) Snellgrose of Carmel, California; and Jill (Chuck) Mullins of Cape Coral, Florida; her grandchildren: Jessica Wright of Tampa, Florida; Adam (Lauren) Snellgrose of Naples, Florida; Heather (Christopher) King of Cocoa, Florida; Marley Jane Nisbet of Chandler, North Carolina; Madison Snellgrose of Carmel Valley, California; Allison (Sam) Mullins of Cape Coral, Florida; and Lindsay (Jake) Mullins of Marcellus, Michigan; along with six great grandchildren and one on the way.

Her family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to VITAS Healthcare for the compassionate care provided to Diane. The dedication of her care team, especially her nurse, meant so much to the family and created bonds that will not be forgotten.

No formal funeral service will be held. Instead, family and friends are invited to gather to celebrate the lives of Diane and her son, Tim Snellgrose, who passed away shortly after Diane on May 3, 2026. The celebration of life will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Lucky Wolf in The Paw Paw Playhouse, located at 404 E. Michigan Avenue in Paw Paw, Michigan.

Please RSVP to Jill at 269-377-8856 by June 15, 2026, via text or phone call, to let us know if you can join us. Beverages and appetizers will be served.

Brian Scott Longshore

Brian Scott Longshore, 45, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Ely Manor, Allegan, after a courageously fought battle with a rare genetic disorder. He was born on Aug. 31, 1980, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the son of Scott Longshore and Evie (Verburg) Longshore.

A true inspiration, Brian was born legally blind and diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder at a young age. Brian never let this slow him down and it certainly did not define who he truly was.

After graduating from Paw Paw High School in 2000, he worked at Lakeview Hospital in Paw Paw, owned his own home, and was independent for much of his life. Brian never complained once about his disabilities and conquered anything he put his mind to.

He loved riding his quad runner around his parents' property while growing up. He enjoyed music and could sing almost every 90s country song word for word. He also loved spending time at the beach in South Haven with his mom, helping his dad out at the Paw Paw Fire Department with spaghetti dinners and all his adventures with his Aunt Chrissy. Brian loved all animals and often enjoyed helping around his family hobby farm. As a child, he had a dog named Chance, who was his best friend for 16 years. After Chance, he adopted a Bassitt hound, Daisy, who would be his companion for several years.

Brian had the kindest heart and did not have a mean bone in his body. He had a great sense of humor and was described by his parents as "Never the problem child." Brian fought hard until the very end. He will be deeply missed but will live on as an inspiration to all who knew him.

He is survived by his parents, Scott and Evie Longshore; brother, Jake (Alexis) Longshore; sister, Ashley (Heath) Pingel; nephews, Kash and Bo Longshore and niece, Lennox Pingel, along with many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Brian was preceded in passing by his grandparents, Maurice and Ina Longshore, Connie and Ray Arndt, Marinus "Rene" Verburg and Joann Verburg-Henry; uncles, Rene Verburg and Bud Morrow and aunt, Arlene Verburg.

Family and friends are invited to visit today (Thursday), May 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. A funeral service will be held Friday, May 22, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Josh Odell officiating. Brian will be laid to rest at Almena Cemetery. Friends and family are encouraged to gather at the Paw Paw Conservation Club, 56222 30th St., Paw Paw, for a luncheon immediately following.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the SPCA of Southwest Michigan, 6955 W KL Ave., Kalamazoo, MI, 49009 and/or the Al Van Humane Society, 7591 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, MI, 49090.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

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Garage fire spreads to house in Columbia Twp, no one injured

Several South Haven area fire departments responded to a structure fire at 10767 53rd Street, Columbia Township of Van Buren County this morning (Tuesday).

Columbia Township firefighters were dispatched at 9:55 a.m.. Mutual aid was provided by the Bangor Community, Bloomingdale Township, Lee Township fire departments and South Haven Area Emergency Services.

The fire started in a garage and spread to the nearby residence. Firefighters successfully contained the fire to the residence.

The homeowner said the fire started when he was trying to start the engine to a boat in the garage. He said he tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the blaze with a fire extinguisher.

The occupants escaped without injury.

Van Buren EMS also responded.

Medieval circus comes to South Haven

A world of medieval mystery, high-flying acrobatics, and family-friendly comedy is coming to the Michigan Flywheelers Museum.

The Kingdom of Wonders Medieval Circus will perform four spectacular shows at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, and Sunday, May 31, 2026.

Considered a non-traditional circus, the Kingdom of Wonders is more a theatrical "Renaissance Adventure" that ditches the traditional clowns and animals in favor of a narrative-driven experience. The show invites guests to the Queen's court to witness a battle of wits and ski

In order to make professional entertainment accessible to all, Kingdom of Wonders offers free tickets for every performance. While admission is free, it does rely on concession sales and donations to support the performers and production costs.

The comedy-based 100-minute show (includes a 15-minute intermission) is designed to captivate children and adults alike with its dazzling acrobatics, juggling acts as you follow a brave knight and his sidekick as they attempt to reclaim the kingdom from a mischievous witch and her dragon.

"We are thrilled to bring this brand-new, one-of-a-kind production to the beautiful grounds at the Michigan Flywheelers Museum," says the team at Leifland Productions. "Our goal is to create a space where every family in the community can experience the wonder of live theater, regardless of their budget."

Online reservations are highly recommended to help staff manage capacity. Seating is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, and doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. Traditional circus treats, including popcorn and soda, will be available for purchase.

For more information, go to www.kingdomofwonders.com to reserve your free tickets.

Michigan Flywheelers Museum is located at 06285 68th St, South Haven, MI 49090.

USA Triathlon championship held at Lake Arvesta

By James Windell

Nick flew in from Kansas City to enter one race event at the USA Multisport National Championships at Lake Arvesta Farms in South Haven.

He finished second in his age group for the Aquathlon – a swimming and running event –and he was very satisfied with that result. For Nick, it means that he was likely going to rank high enough for his age bracket to go to the World Multisport Championships in Edmonton, Canada in 2027.

"Many of us athletes are here to qualify for Team USA on the amateur circuit," Nick said sitting in an Adirondack chair in the sun after his event. "Competitors are trying to qualify to go to Edmonton," Nick explains, "and qualification is based on ranking." He said that in order to qualify, an athlete must finish in the top 18 in their age group. He said he's been doing the Aquathlon for 10 years.

Stephen, from San Diego, may or may not qualify for the Worlds, but he still enjoys travelling around the country and competing in the Super Sprint Duathlon – a run-bike-run event.

He said he has never been in Michigan before and he commented that he was impressed with Lake Arvesta Farms, but there are things about Michigan he wasn't thrilled with. "It's the mosquitos and the cold," the southern California native said. He said that it was too chilly to do the swimming events on the first day of the championships.

The four-day championship at Lake Arvesta Farms was put on by USA Triathlon, which is the National Governing Body for triathlon, duathlon, aquathlon, and aquabike races in the U.S. However, the championship was hosted by Tris4Health, a Michigan-based endurance event management organization that produces many of the state's major triathlons, cycling races, running events, and multisport festivals.

A Tris4Health co-owner and Race Director, Jon Conkling, estimated that more than 950 athletes from nearly every state and two other countries registered for over 2200 events. He said that Michigan has hosted a USA Triathlon National Championship previously, but this is the first USA Triathlon Multisport National Championships Festival to be held in the state.

"The general sentiment so far is that South Haven and Lake Arvesta Farms is a gem, with visitors and athletes pleasantly surprised once they arrive," Conkling said. He repeatedly praised Lake Arvesta owner Brian DeBest for being hands-on, responsive, and supportive of whatever the event needed. He also mentioned the many volunteers who helped make the venue so special for the athletes and the sponsors.

"This venue is a unique host site for athletes and families," Conkling said, "with a 'something different and unique' feel to it. Some of the positives have been live bands at night, food, ice cream, bouncy houses for kids, and a generally festive atmosphere."

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VIEWPOINT

On this Memorial Day

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Editor's Note: I thought I would use my space to sometimes contributor, Jeffrey Brasie. As a Vietnam veteran, he offers a movie, book and TV show that honor best those that served.

By: Jeffrey D. Brasie, M.A,

This coming Monday, May 25th Americans will reflect and honor Memorial Day. Our Canadian neighbors recognize their Memorial Day each July 1st.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) there are just under 18 million veterans. VA statistics reveal the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq age group veterans are eclipsing the living Vietnam era veterans.

I have personally visited numerous military memorials, parades, and cemeteries to render a hand salute or placed my hand over my heart for those who have served and passed. The Vietnam Wall is the most difficult for me to visit. I know two of the 58,281 names engraved in the 246-foot nine-inch granite wall.

As we prepare for Memorial Day, I would like to share with you my thoughts which I tend to believe are the best motion picture, book, and television episode honoring those who served.

Motion Picture

For many, the movies, Born on the Fourth of July, The Hurt Locker, Blackhawk Down, Saving Private Ryan, Dirty Dozen, Flags of Our Fathers, and Forrest Gump come to mind.

I tend to believe the best motion picture is the 1946 Oscar award winning film, The Best Years of Our Lives.

The film features Fredic March, Dana Andrews, and Harold Russell as three post-World War II veterans returning to their Midwest hometown. March portrays an Army sergeant who has seen combat, Andrews an Army Air Corps flight captain, and Russell a Navy petty officer who lost both of his forearms.

March struggles with PSTD (then known as shell shock) when returning to his family he hasn't seen for years and his banking profession. Andrews returns to a philanderer wife and a third level job clerking at a local drug store. Finally, Russell has adjusted to his limb loss. Nevertheless, his mother has struggled to manage her son's challenge, while his next-door neighbor and girlfriend, Wilma, loves him deeply.

It is a terrific motion picture to view especially with a Russell and Wilma's wedding scene, a blossoming new love for Andrews, and March's family and lifestyle are reunited.

The movie is available through a multitude of on-line resources and through library lending services.

The Book

My Father, My Son is a biography of Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Elmo ("Bud") Zumwalt, Jr. co-written with John Pekkanen. The book chronicles Zumwalt's personal life and military career.

As a young petty officer, at the Pentagon on the Secretary of the Navy's public affairs staff, I had the honor of periodically seeing and interacting with the Admiral.

Zumwalt, the Navy's highest-ranking officer, faced dozens upon dozens of challenges during his CNO tenure. These ranged from the Vietnam war front, racial tensions, an aging fleet, and constantly seeking administration and Congressional support. It is relevant to note that when he was selected as CNO he was chosen over other senior level flag officers. At age 49 he was the youngest CNO ever to be appointed.

The most poignant chapter in the book is when Zumwalt talks about his Vietnam tour of duty. During this period, his son, Elmo III was a Naval lieutenant manning a gun boat on the Mekong River Delta.

From the shoreline, American troops were facing severe casualties on the Delta.

Admiral Zumwalt made the decision to use the defoliant, agent orange, to push back each side of the river shoreline by hundreds of yards. This meant the enemy could no longer hide behind the shoreline foliage nor launch their weapons against the American forces.

Years later after leaving the Navy and graduating from law school, the junior Zumwalt learned that he contracted Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He died in 1988.

It is believed that the Admiral's decision to use agent orange, to save numerous troop members, may have caused his son to have died at age 42. The Admiral's grandson, Elmo IV was born with a birth defect which hinders his ability to concentrate. Other Vietnam veterans' children have also shown birth defects.

Certain aspects of this book are a challenging read of the Admiral and his son facing the consequences of agent orange.

On using agent orange, the Admiral at the time was assured by the Pentagon that the defoliate was safe to use. He commented, "I asked the right questions, but got the wrong answers."

The book is available at lending libraries or can be ordered online.

The Television Show

Television featured numerous military related series such as NCIS, China Beach, Combat, Hogan's Heroes, McHale's Navy, JAG, Seal Team, and numerous other series dating back decades.

Perhaps the best was the 11-season run of M*A*S*H. The series was filled with a variety of notable characters, hilarious situations, as well as the Korean War's difficulties and dozens of ethical issues.

As a side note, the late Harry Morgan who portrayed Colonel Sherman Potter was from Muskegon, Michigan and Corporal Max Klinger (played by Jamie Farr) is a Toledo, Ohio native.

Probably the most memorable episode for me appeared in 1980 entitled, "Death Takes a Holiday." Truly one of the best episodes and major tearjerker.

The plot has the M*A*S*H 4077 medical unit celebrating Christmas in the camp's massive mess (dining) quarters.

As the holiday festivities carry on, a severely wounded soldier, shot by a sniper, arrives at the M*A*S*H unit. The holiday party continues with the soldier quickly carried into the surgical tent.

Hawkeye (Alan Alda) and B.J. Hunnicutt (Mike Ferrell) realized the combat soldier was most certainly going to die. Their goal was to keep him alive so his family would not see him pass on Christmas day. It was a scene filled with love, tense moments, and a from the heart mission.

Head nurse, Major Margaret Houlihan (Loretta Swit) pulled a photo from the soldier's pocket which showed his wife and children. Inscribed on the photo was "To the best husband and daddy in the world; come home soon."

Colonel Potter would slip into the nearby surgical tent wearing his makeshift Santa outfit. Father John Mulcahy (William Christopher) would pray and add words of wisdom. As the solider was heading toward death, one of the Father's classic remarks was, "Christmas should be thought of as a day of birth."

The wall clock ticked towards midnight and December 26th. The soldier becomes weaker by the hour. He passes before midnight. Hawkeye slips over to the nearby clock and moves it to 12:05 a.m.

Mission accomplished – the official record had the solider from Pennsylvania pass on December 26th.

Hand salute to you, my dear brothers and sisters who served and those who gave their lives in the name of democracy and freedom.

Jeffrey D. Brasie is a retired health care CEO. He frequently writes historic feature stories and op-eds for various Michigan newspapers, magazines, and social media sites. As a Vietnam-era veteran, he served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Naval Reserve. He served on the public affairs staff of the Secretary of the Navy. He grew up near the tip of the mitt and resides in suburban Detroit.

Sheriff's Notes: National Police Week held

"This past week was National Police Week. Thank you to all the dedicated professionals not only at our office, but across this great nation. Law enforcement is truly a calling, and the ones who answer the call are a true servant in what they do. Again, I am very blessed to have the deputies at our office who serve in that role. The citizens of Van Buren County get to see every day the true professionals we have here keeping our community safe," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a domestic assault in Bangor Township. "The investigation found that the suspect tried to strangle the victim during the assault. The suspect was lodged for the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our office participated in the Mock Disaster at the Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) last week. Several of us were present along with numerous other law enforcement agencies, fire departments, EMS, and other agencies who would have responded that don't fall under the categories I listed. It was once again well attended, put together with realistic scenarios that play out giving the students a firsthand look at what they may deal with if they continue in the field. It's always nice to participate and help coach these kids with this, especially since some of them may end up working here at our office in the future," said Sheriff Abbott.

Deputy Cody Bingaman Earned a Life Saving Award and it was presented last week to him at the Board of Commissioners' meeting. Deputy Bingaman responded to a call in Waverly Township regarding a vehicle parked in a back yard of a residence. It was quickly determined that the 79-year-old out-of-county resident was unaccounted for. "Concern immediately was that he may have suffered a medical issue, so Deputy Bingaman deployed his canine for a track. There was also concern due to the vehicle close to a swift moving river in the area. Deputy Bingaman and K-9 Charlie tracked the individual approximately 150 yards and found him partially submerged in the river and suffering from the effects of exposure, placing him on the verge of hypothermia. Deputy Bingaman immediately entered the hazardous environment and successfully pulled the victim to safety. The individual was transported to the ER for treatment and survived the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Deputy Jason Erickson and Sgt. Larry Weers Earned a Sheriff's Award of Excellence for their role in the above incident. "Deputy Erickson was first on scene; he quickly realized the seriousness of the situation and immediately got the needed resources rolling while not contaminating the scene. Sgt. Weers put up a drone immediately and coordinated with the ground search efforts. With his efforts and coordinating with the K-9 track going toward the victim's location, things were able to be expedited," said Sheriff Abbott.

"I was honored to participate in a fund-raising event "Lunch with the Sheriff" put on by St. Mary's Catholic School. I had a great time taking the high bidder out to lunch with her daughter. After lunch, I gave them a tour of our overall office, showed them patrol cars and equipment, and explained the overall operations of the office while giving them a tour. Thank you to all the staff members who were involved, giving insight as well when we came to their office/work area. Just so there's no question where the money came from to pay for the lunch, I paid for it out of my personal account (no county tax dollars were used)," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Narcotic detectives received information about a location in Kalamazoo County of a fugitive they were searching for. Detectives contacted Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office and deputies from there worked in conjunction with our detectives to locate the suspect. The suspect was located and arrested without incident. The suspect had drug paraphernalia on his person during arrest, so he now faces potentially more charges. He also had warrants out to Kalamazoo County and Portage Department of Public Safety for failure to appear. He was lodged at our jail with holds placed on him for the warrants out of the other agencies," said Sheriff Abbott.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In January, during Winter Storm Fern, the operator of Michigan's grid did something it rarely does. It told an entire region to cut back on electricity, in the middle of a deep freeze, because the system was running short of margin. The lights stayed on, but the people whose job is keeping them on were openly warning they might not be able to.

That night wasn't bad luck. It was the predictable result of an energy policy written in Lansing by people who treated reliability as someone else's problem and affordability as an outdated idea.

Last week, the Michigan House said never again.

We passed Project Lighthouse, and we did it for the people who actually pay the bills. Not the activists. Not the consultants who drew up the mandates. The family opening an electric bill higher than they planned for, in an economy where everything already costs too much.

For years, families were told to accept a false choice: pay more, get less, and call it clean. Question the bill in your hand and you were branded an enemy of clean energy. That was always backwards. Wanting power you can afford and count on isn't hostility to clean energy. It's the only honest test of any energy plan, and the people who wrote these mandates couldn't pass it. The family doing the math at the kitchen table was never the extremist. The people who wrote mandates on a political timeline and told that family to be quiet were.

I was raised on my family's fourth-generation farm in Watervliet, where the work started before sunrise and nobody waited on a bureaucracy for permission to get the job done. That's the Michigan that built this state. The Lansing Democrats who wrote the mandates forgot those people existed, but last week, the House gave them their voice back.

The fight isn't finished. Project Lighthouse now moves to the Senate, and the same crowd that built this mess and profits from it will fight to keep it.

But for the first time in a long time, Michigan chose the people who keep the lights on over the politicians who nearly turned them off.

State Rep. Pauline Wendzel
Chairwoman, Michigan House Energy Committee

Whitmer transitioned state into dumpster file

Dear Editor,
As Governor Whitmer is packing up to vacate our Governor's mansion, she appears to be competing with every other progressive governor in the nation to see how much damage she can inflict before leaving office. Depending on the study, Michigan's 2025-26 K-12 education system is nationally ranked between 37th to 44th. The American Legislative Exchange Council publishes an annual review of states ranking the economic competitiveness of states based on differences in tax rates, minimum wage laws, liability costs and other state policy metrics. According to their 2026 report, from the time Whitmer took office in 2019, Michigan has dropped from a national ranking of 12th to 32nd. Remember we only have 50 states. Since 2019 the Whitmer regime has approved nearly $2.5B in corporate subsidies. Many of these companies never got off the ground and of those that did roughly only 22% of the promised jobs have been realized with the vast majority of these jobs providing less than Michigan's median wage.
Just when you think we can't be any more disappointed in our state government we have a nonpartisan effort to impose a truly authoritarian package of bills that will provide Lansing the mandate to control local community planning and zoning. In the past few years, politicians in Lansing have absolutely gutted our local zoning and community planning. With majorities in both chambers, Democrats passed a law two years ago that removed most local authority pertaining to wind and solar installations. Then with the addition of data centers and marijuana stores, the quality of hometown life in Michigan has taken a significant nosedive.

But now, to join in Michigan's race to the bottom both Democrats and some Republicans in the Michigan House of Representatives want to pass a whole raft of new laws that would create a one-size fits all solution to deprive our communities the autonomy to create or enforce local zoning.

These bills amend the current Michigan Zoning Enabling Act by introducing new definitions and provisions related to accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and single-wide mobile homes, duplexes and triplexes. In essence allowing them in any residential zone with few restrictions. Home setbacks will be greatly reduced resulting in houses placed much closer together while allowing houses as small as 500 square feet and building lots as small as 1500 square feet anywhere public water and sewer are available.
To contribute to this assault on Michigan citizens, one House Republican has proposed a bill amending the Michigan Health Code that would provide a temporary housing solution by allowing longer campground stays, which currently limits campground living for up to six months. This is despite the concern by state regulators that warn longer stays could violate public health rules.
With the typical hypocrisy we have come to expect from Lansing, Whitmer has spent $261 million of our tax dollars on site preparation at the Mundy mega site that spans about 1,300 acres in Genesee County. That money was spent, in part, on buying residents out of their homes, some unwillingly, and then demolishing 43 homes for a project that never came to fruition. This doesn't sound like affordable housing is her top priority after all.
There are many factors impacting affordable housing in Michigan and nationally but they do not include those items listed above. As with too many government programs with the appearance of honorable intent, the Michigan Statewide Housing Plan is another corporate welfare initiative steeped in social justice initiatives. The plan explicitly calls for extending rental support to "refugees, immigrants, and migrants" as part of its long-term housing stability strategy. As with far too many federal and state programs this is just another opportunity for the laundering of tax dollars without benefitting the middle class and those American citizens in need of affordable housing.
The Michigan Statewide Housing Plan is bankrolled by Michigan taxpayers, including many that struggle to pay their own mortgages as well as their bloated property taxes. Such short-sighted programs only benefit progressive policies and a few select groups and privileged individuals. Michigan is still not building enough homes for regular Michiganders. Yet Lansing allows local as well as out of state and international investors to purchase existing single-family homes to then market as rental properties and short-term rentals. This artificially inflates property values and significantly depletes once affordable housing.
For the last century Americans have been protecting the integrity of our local communities with the 1926 U.S. Supreme Court decision from Village of Euclid v. Ambler Realty Co. which established the constitutionality of community zoning. In less than eight short years, Whitmer has transitioned our once great prosperous state into one more blue state dumpster fire. So, to add to her professional resume it appears that she, with the support of some disappointing Republicans, can include not only the devastation of our property values but the ruin of local community sustainability.
Thank you.
John R. Young

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Reporter gets a lesson for a novice racetrack driver

By James Windell

When Dana Hullinger invited me to the GingerMan Raceway for the CGI High Performance Training event on Monday, May 11, 2026, my expectations were that I would attend a class, watch some drivers race around the track, and maybe talk to a few people who attended the event.

However, CGI Motorsports Chief Instructor Brad Pines and Dana Hullinger, a driving instructor and former race car driver, had something more planned for me.

"We're going to get you out on the track early," said Brad Pines when I first met him.

"I assume you've never driven a car on a racetrack, right?" Brad Pines said to me.

"Great assumption," I replied.

When Dana told the novice class that was receiving tips from Pines that he and I would be first out on the track when novices were scheduled to use the racecourse at 9:40 am, he said they could look out for us in a Black Honda Accord HR-V.

Not exactly a high-performance vehicle.

Everyone else had Porsches, Mustangs, BMW M3s, Camaros, and Mazda Miatas. I didn't see any other Hondas.

"Do you mind if I drive your car," Dana said as we walked to my Honda. "You can pay attention better if you're a passenger rather than a driver."

No problem. I did not want to be driving my Honda on a racetrack with guys with high-powered vehicles trying to pass me. I could imagine myself driving along at 35 mph while guys in Porsches were pushing 140 mph and hugging my taillights.

The first thing Dana said as we buckled up as he pushed the button to start my engine was: "We need to get the windows down. That's for safety so first responders can have access to us more easily after an accident."

That was reassuring. By all means I wanted first responders to get to my broken and bleeding body.

"In older race cars," Dana said after looking at me taking deep breaths, "open windows also helped reduce concerns about asphyxiation from unmuffled and short exhausts."

Oh, cool, I thought. That's another thing we don't have to worry about.

Driving in the entry lane, Dana waited until given permission to enter the track. He began narrating almost immediately, giving me tips that I could use when I drove on the track.

"Stay on the correct side of the white blend line," he said, "in order to keep separation from faster cars already on the racing line."

When we passed yellow flags, he reminded me that yellow meant caution but since this was the first lap it also meant no passing. He showed me the hand signal for pitting: arm out the window with a closed fist to indicate committing to pit-in so other drivers can safely pass.

Dana's coaching helped me get a sense of what various things meant along the racetrack. Such as the white sticks that are braking markers, cones and pavement patches as reference points.

"A core habit," he said, "is to keep your eyes up and look one to two steps ahead. You should visually transition from a near reference, like a cone, to a far target – the next cone."

He demonstrated several times on the 2.14 mile track the "Momentum approach." "Take wide arcs and big radii to be gentler on the car and carry more speed," he said.

And he pointed out common novice mistakes – like turning too early, especially on faster approaches, causing the car to run wide, which can land you and your car off the track in the sand.

As Dana reached speeds in my Honda that I rarely attain on the highway, I thought about what my explanation would be to the Honda Dealership after my lease car crashed during our 10 laps around the course.

"It wasn't my fault; a race driver borrowed my car without permission."

"I didn't know I was on a racecourse and I had a slight mishap – trying to navigate a curve at 100 miles per hour."

"How did I know this HR-V wasn't designed for a racetrack?"

Fortunately, I didn't have to use any of these.

When we pulled off the course safely, Dana asked if I was ready to take the wheel for a few laps on the track.

"I don't think I'm ready yet," I confessed. He seemed to understand.

What I didn't tell him was that I didn't really think I would ever be ready. I am quite content to limit my thrills to typing 60 words a minute, thank you.

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SHAES Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, May 24

South Haven Emergency Services (SHAES) will host its traditional Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 24 at its Blue Star Station, 90 Blue Star Highway, from 7:30 to 11 a.m.

The breakfast will be served at the station in addition to being available via drive-thru.

Kids and adults are welcome to see the fire trucks up close.

The menu will consist of pancakes, scrambled eggs, link sausage and drinks.

Instead of a fixed meal price, patrons are being asked to make a donation thanks to some generous contributions of supplies from local businesses.

All proceeds will go towards SHAES member mental wellness initiatives.

Two recognized with South Haven schools pride awards

Pride Award Winner Kayleen May

By James Windell

A North Shore Elementary fifth grade student and a Baseline Middle School Success Coach were recognized at the May 13, 2026 Board of Education meeting with Pride Awards.

Kayleen Ruiz, the North Shore student, was praised by Mr. French, her classroom teacher, as a girl who consistently demonstrates kindness, respect, compassion, and a strong commitment to learning.

She was singled out as a positive role model with a mature, calm, quiet demeanor that contributes to a welcoming classroom environment. Kayleen is said to be known for her steady positivity, her thoughtfulness, and for putting forth her best effort. She participates actively in class discussions and read-alouds – and does both with confidence and enthusiasm.

It was noted that she also plays saxophone in the 5th grade band, showing dedication and responsibility in that role as well.

The second Pride Award was handed out to Brooke Marley, the Success Coach at Baseline Middle School.

Although she couldn't attend the awarding of her plaque, she was recognized as a staff member known for a calm, kind, soft-spoken demeanor and consistently going above and beyond.

Marley was described as a person who steps in to support wherever needed – and does so without hesitation. She also greets students and staff in the morning and helps ensure students safely load buses at the end of the day. In addition, she provides consistency and support throughout the day, especially during lunch and recess. She manages a caseload of students with dedication, supporting academic growth and preparation for 8th grade and transition to high school.

Finally, Marley was praised for her commitment, her reliability, and her genuine investment in student success.

South Haven holds hearing on 2026-2027 budget

By James Windell

After previous Committee of the Whole and South Haven City Council discussions, the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026–27 City Council priorities and the FY 2026-2027 budget were back on the agenda at the regular meeting of the City Council on May 18, 2026.

The priorities were restated to reflect what staff believed council wanted – including an added emphasis on urgent care and expanding medical facilities.

The City Council members discussed needing a formal motion and vote for adopting the City Council priorities. However, a procedural mix-up occurred when an initial motion referenced both adopting priorities and holding a public hearing for the budget. Mayor Annie Brown clarified that the public hearing was a separate item. When the initial combined motion for the priorities and the public hearing were withdrawn, a new motion was made by David Flack and seconded by Eddie Polk. The priorities were adopted by a unanimous vote.

The council then approved a separate motion to open the required public hearing on the FY 2026–27 budget. City Manager Kate Hosier emphasized that the council would not adopt the budget at this meeting. Adoption would be on the agenda at the first City Council meeting in June. The City Finance Director, Michelle Argue, noted that the City has held multiple budget-related sessions: capital improvement review, two budget workshops, and a strategic planning session.

When the public hearing was opened, Mayor Brown invited public comment and questions regarding the budget, but there were no members of the public that chose to comment. The council moved to close the public hearing.

Following the brief public hearing, council members asked questions of the City Manager and the Finance Director. Council member Mary Hosley asked whether a more defined budget would be available by budget approval time for the lifeguard program. Hosier responded by saying that the final amount was still uncertain but noted equipment purchases have already been made. Hosier went on to say that they are using the beach parking fund (and reserves) to cover costs and hope changes to the parking resolution and fees will increase revenue, though projections remain uncertain.

Hosley also requested that in the interests of transparency that future budgets ungroup legal fees from general contractual fees to show legal spending by each City department. Hosier replied that they did not plan to change the grouping, citing how the software they use structures the categories. She noted that legal costs are allocated to particular funds and can be project specific. Hosley reiterated her concern, citing legal fees nearing $500,000 and wanting clarity on which departments drive costs.

The FY 2026-2027 budget will be back on thew age3nbda for the June 1, 2026, City Council meeting.

Prizes won in South Haven Steelheaders Pro-Am Tournament

By James Windell

Tournament Weigh -In
Date: May 17, 2026
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South Haven Steelheaders

On Saturday, May 16, 2026, the biggest fish caught was a 16.34-pound fish by Team Utopia. The next day, Team Kick'r topped that with a 19.32-pound fish.

That was just part of the excitement of the South Haven Steelheaders' 41st Annual South Haven Pro Am presented by The Lodge restaurant.

Starting on Friday, May 15, Rich Chapman, President of the South Haven Steelheaders, said that seven boats entered the ladies/youth event.

"The Ladies & Youth Tournament is a new event for us this year," Chapman said. He explained that one of the main rules of this event is that ladies or youth must do all the rod work during the tournament. The captain or mate may only set lines, net fish or help remove a rod from the holder, but they must immediately hand the rod off.

The Women's tournament winner was the boat Double Hook, whose captain is Mitch VantVoort. Denise Collins was the winning angler.

Chapman said that there were 23 boats who participated in the Jim and Cherie Bellman Memorial, which was also held on Saturday. First place in this event went to the boat Flat Out Two, with Best Chance Two coming in second. For the first-place finish, Flat Out Two was awarded a check for $2,280.00.The big fish award was captured by Dave Engel, in Best Chance Two, as he landed a 17.7 pound lake trout.

The primary purpose of the South Haven Pro-Am Tournament is to obtain fish for the Annual Blueberry Festival Fish Boil held in August, which is the South Haven Steelheaders' biggest fundraiser. This fundraiser provides money to achieve the goal of educating the general public on improving, preserving and promoting sport fishing in The Great Lakes and their tributary streams and rivers.

According to Jayme Hinz, President of the South Haven Steelheaders Sport Fishing Association, Team Utopia took home the win in the Saturday Shootout event. Team Utopia was presented with a check of $14,4000 for the win.

She also said that the winner of the Pro division of the Pro-Am Tournament was the boat Best Chance Too. The winners in this event were awarded $6,000. On the Amateur side, the winning boat was Liquid Therapy, which received a check for $5,000.

With the many boats and anglers participating in this year's tournament, there should be plenty of fish for the fish boil in August.

Hinz noted that this year's tournament was designed differently than the tournament in the past. "We had a different format by splitting Saturday into an Open Division Shootout and then Sunday into the traditional Pro/Am Split Divisional Shootout," she said. "We are looking forward to hearing feedback from the participants to decide what we do in future years."

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BRONSON

Many attend "Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry" fundraiser banquet

"It was a great turnout and a great evening hearing all the success they are having at the Van Buren County Jail," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott about the recent fundraiser held at Freshwater Community Church, Paw Paw for Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministries. "It was nice being able to speak with so many of the attendees there," said Sheriff Abbott.

Photo courtesy/ Paul DeYoung

WiredCat Robotics team continues strong showing

By Chris Cross
Coach
WiredCat Robotics
FRC Team 5675

WireCat Robotics is a community team based in Mattawan. We are very fortunate to work out of Tri-Mation Industries, a small, local manufacturer. This has been a wonderful partnership between the company and the team.

The WiredCats had another incredible year. We went to two qualifying events; one held at Lakeview High School and the other at Battle Creek Central High School. With solid performances at each event, the WiredCats earned their way to the Michigan State Championship held at SVSU.

The team ended the season in a respectable 68th place out of over 530 teams in the state. Our overall performance qualified us to compete at the FIRST World Championship held in Houston, TX. However, for various reasons, the WiredCats declined the invitation. This was our fourth year in a row earning our way to the championship.

Here is an overview of each event.

Lakeview High School (March 5-7; week 1 of competitions)

- 6th place (out of 38 teams) at the end of qualifying matches.
- Captain of the 4th Alliance for playoff rounds.
- Eliminated in the quarterfinals.
- Received the Quality Award.

- Battle Creek Central High School (March 27-29; week 4 of competitions)
- 6th place (out of 39 teams) at the end of qualifying matches.
- First pick of the 2nd Alliance for playoff rounds.
- Eliminated in the finals.
- Received the Industrial Design Award.
- Michigan State Championship (April 16-18)
- Competed on the Hemlock Semiconductor field.
- 26th place (out of 41 teams) at the end of qualifying matches.
- Second pick of the 3rd Alliance for playoff rounds.
- Eliminated in the semifinal.

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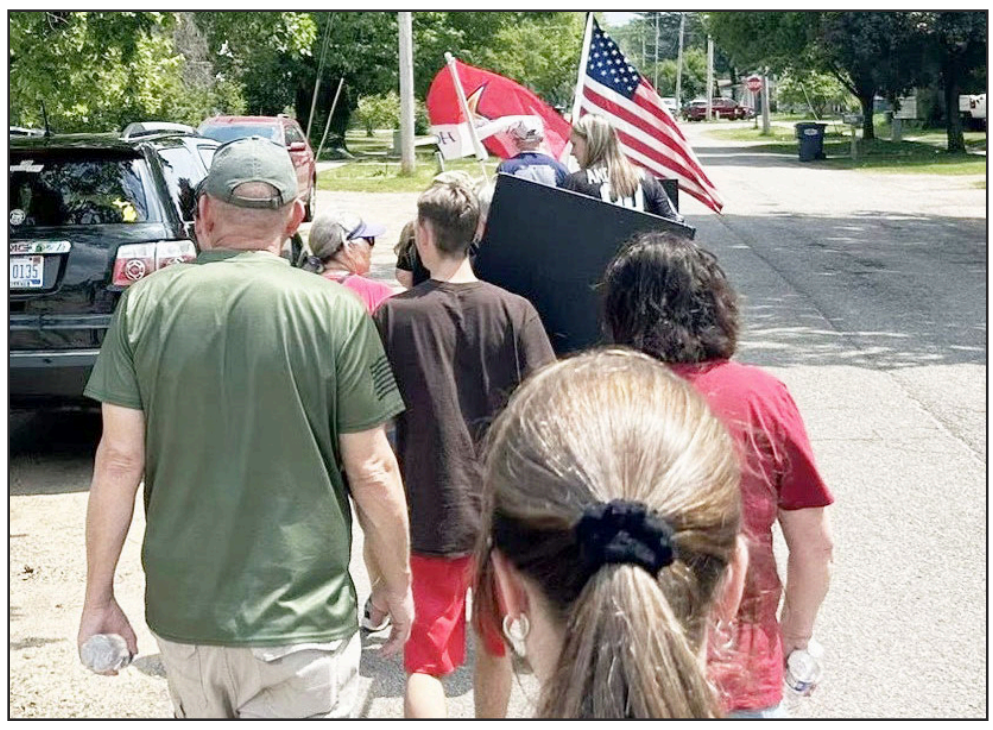
Gold Star Mothers hold military suicide awareness walk-a-thon



The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. - Western Michigan Chapter served as host for the fourth annual Military Suicide Awareness Walk-A-Thon, Sunday, May 17. The Walk began and ended at Maple City Veterans Memorial Park, 510 E. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. A short program was held at the end of the Walk, followed by a Silent Auction, and 50/50 Raffle. This year's funds collected will go to the Woody Williams Foundation in support of the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument to be built at Maple City Veterans Memorial Park. It will also support Working Dogs for Vets, a 502(c)3 non-profit whose motto is, "Savings lives on both ends of the leash." It helps veterans in need of a service dog and often use rescue dogs to fill the need.

Photos courtesy/ Kevin Conklin

Slime and Scales with Sarett Nature Center at Lawrence Branch Library

LAWRENCE - We are bringing nature to the library on Saturday, June 6, at 2 p.m. A Traveling Naturalist from the Sarett Nature Center will bring live animals including snakes, lizards and turtles for viewing and discussion. This event is open to all ages. Reservations are appreciated but not required.

Hours for the Lawrence Community Branch Library, 212 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, are Monday – Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For information about this or any other program, call (269) 674-3200.

Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur with branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan.

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Paw Paw Public Schools has built a tradition of athletic excellence rooted in teamwork, perseverance, and pride. From packed gyms and Friday night lights to championship moments in all sports, generations of student-athletes have learned to compete with heart, lead with character, and represent something bigger than themselves. At PPPS, we don't just develop athletes, we develop champions on and off the playing field.

PPPS Proudly Celebrates People Our People.

At Paw Paw Public Schools, we believe that recognizing and celebrating our teachers and staff strengthens the heart of our schools. When we honor the dedication, kindness, and impact of our educators and support staff, we build a culture rooted in appreciation, connection, and community. These moments of recognition help foster a positive school environment where kindness is valued, collaboration thrives, and every staff member feels seen and supported.

Schools of Choice: Investing in Opportunity.

Through the $47.5 million bond voters approved in 2022, Paw Paw Public Schools is making key investments in modern learning spaces, safety upgrades, a new early childhood center, early and later elementary classroom additions, middle school renovations, a cafeteria expansion, a new multipurpose gym, and athletic facility upgrades. These improvements reflect a commitment to high-quality education and strong community support, helping make PPPS a welcoming Schools of Choice destination for students and families.

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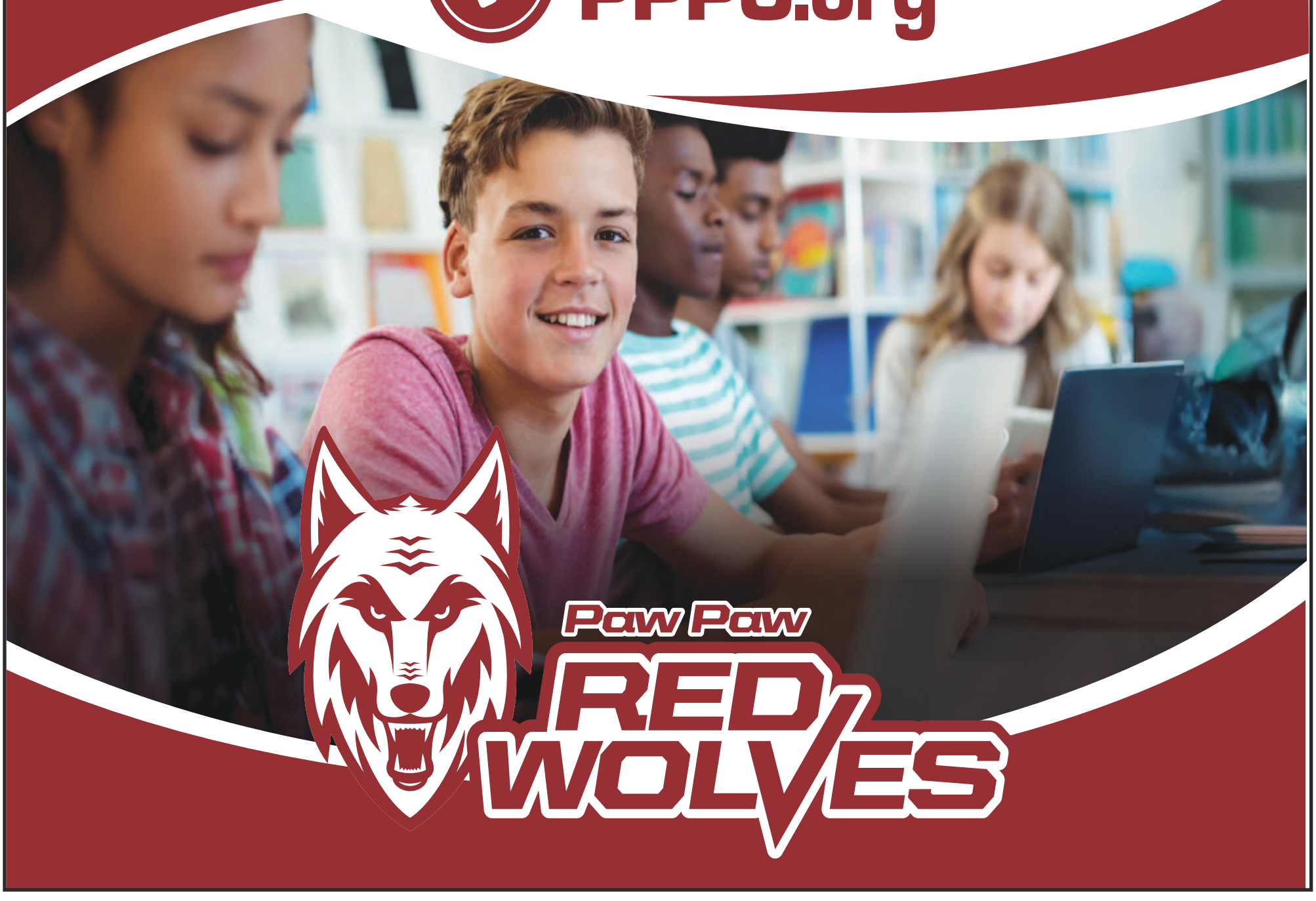

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Bloomingdale girl hurls no-hitter

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Bloomingdale Cardinals Junior High softball team pitched her first ever no-hitter in a non league game Thursday night (May 14) against the Allegan Tigers, recording a 22-0 win.

This was on the heels of a 17-1 win against the Lawrence Tigers the previous night, giving her two wins in less than 36 hours.

The varsity team fell to 7-12 with a pair of losses to Marcellus on Friday, May 15-5 in the bottom of the fourth. The first game was 17-5 and the second game was 16-2.

In the first game, Natalie Garcia homered to center field, which helped Bloomingdale's tie the game.

Hailee Blazys took the loss for Bloomingdale.

Bloomingdale's had 10 hits. Hailee and Taylor Blazys and Natalia Garcia had two hits apiece.

Taylor Blazys had a solo home run in the second game in the fourth inning.

Molly Kubiszak of the

Bangor baseball goes 1-1

Bangor baseball hosted Mendon for the Autism Awareness Community Connection Day on Saturday.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR— On Saturday Bangor baseball hosted Mendon for the Autism Awareness Community Connection Day.

"This was a great day with great people, great weather, great food, and some great baseball," coach Nick Cox said. "In game one we beat a good Mendon team 10-0 in six innings. Game two was a great game too, but we fell 5-3 in a very well played game. I'm very proud of our boys for how well they accepted the League of Miracles into our dugout to give them a taste of Bangor baseball.

"These kids made the day successful and the energy that they gave us helped tremendously. We are back on the field as we travel to White Pigeon today for the SW10 matchup.

Game 1:Carson Pullins went 2/4; Jaret McCoy 6IP, 0R, 9K's, 1BB (W)

Game 2:

Luke Remington went 2/4 while playing 5 different positions.

Carson Pullins, Jaret McCoy, Terrance Payne, and Jaxon Webb all recorded a hit in the game.

Paw Paw girls have successful stretch

Lauren MacKellar has had strong pitching performances for Paw Paw.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — It was an extremely productive week for Paw Paw's softball team despite sustaining some losses.

The Wolves came into last week with a 23-4 record.

It started with a sweep at home on May 4 against Otsego 4-3 and 5-0.

In the first game, Paw Paw was down 3-2 but scored two runs on an error for the win.

Lauren Mackellar was the winning pitcher for the winnera, allowing five hits and three runs, one earned, over seven innings, striking out seven and walking three.

Aliya Edison had one hit and one RBI. Bella Clemon had three hits. Elizabeth Vanderburg had three walks.

In the second game, Vanderburg had a home run, double and single. Bella Clemons earned the pitching win, giving up four hits a zero runs over 6.1 innings, striking out nine and walking two. Kailey Nichols also had three hits for Paw Paw. Stella Shaefer stole two bases.

On May 6, Paw Paw was swept by Lakeshore Lancers 5-1 and 10-8.

Paw Paw outhit the Lancers 7-6 in the first game. Vanderburg and Bella Clemons each had two hits for Paw Paw. MacKellar took the loss for Paw Paw. She went six innings, allowing four runs on six his, striking out six and walking six.

Paw Paw also out hit Lakeshore in the second game, despite the loss. Aliya Edson had a home run for the Wolves for three runs.

Vanderburg had a solo home run the top of the fifth. Edson, Raegan Zache, Vanderburg and Clemens had multiple hits for Paw Paw.

On May 7, Paw Paw earned a 2-1 win over Byron Center. Edson had an RBI sacrifice fly. Lemons had two hits.

MacKellar was the winning pitcher, allowing four this and one run over seven innings, striking out seven and walking two.

On Saturday, Paw Paw had three close games over the weekend in tournament action and won two of them.

The Wolves beat Dowagiac 3-2, Kourtney Nichols laid down a sacrifice bunt the bottom of the eighth for a run, Shaefer had a solo home run and a single. MacKellar earned the pitching win, allowing no hits and no runs over three innings. Clemons also pitched for Paw Paw. Shaefer had three hits. Zache and Clemons had two hits apiece.

Paw Paw edge Tecumseh 6-5. Clemons was the winning pitcher, allowing two hits and one run in three innings. Nichols was the starter.

Charlotte Harling, Shaefer and Clemons all had two hits.

Paw Paw lost to Coldwater 1-0 in the third game. Macekllar was the losing pitcher. Clemons had three hits.

Paw Paw is 29-4 after a 4-2 win over Unity Christian on Saturday, May 16.

Gobles track athlete qualify for state

Libby Smith is among the state qualifiers for Gobles

GOBLES — Friday, May 15, the Gobles Tigers hosted the D4 Regional meet and the boy placed third and the girls were second place. There were over 20 state qualifiers as a result of this meet.

Gobles State Qualifiers for MHSAA States on May 30th:

BOYS:

David Sager 4x200 Relay 2x Qualifier;4x400 Relay 2x Qualifier; 800 Meter Run 2x Qualifier.

Nathan Ray 4x100 Relay 4x Qualifier; 4x200 Relay 3x Qualifier; 4x400 Relay 3x Qualifier; 100 Meter Dash.

Steven Juarez: 4x100 Relay 3x Qualifier; 4x200 Relay 3x Qualifier; 4x400 Relay 3x Qualifier.

Maximus Sager: 4x200 Relay 2x Qualifier; 4x400 Relay 2x Qualifier.

Coal Otis ; 4x400 Relay 3x Qualifier; 4x100 Relay 2x Qualifier; 4x200 Relay; High Jump.

Jayden Otis: 4x100 Relay; 4x200 Relay.

Landon Gerould: Pole Vault.

Hunter Piper: Pole Vault.

Noah Philley: 4x100 Relay.

Titus Sager4x400 Relay

GIRLS:

Ava DeYoung: 4x100 Relay; 4x200m Relay 2x Qualifier; 4x400m Relay 2x Qualifier; 4x800m Relay.

Madison Cooley; 800m Run 3x Qualifier; 4x100 Relay; 4x200 Relay 3x Qualifier; 4x400m Relay 4x Qualifier; 4x800m Relay 4x Qualifier.

Libby Smith: 1600m Run 3x Qualifier; 3200m Run 3x Qualifier; 4x800m Relay 3x Qualifier.

Ellie Wood: 4x100m Relay 2x Qualifier; 4x200 Relay 2x Qualifier; 4x400m Relay 3x Qualifier.

Olivia Platt: 4x100m Relay 3x Qualifier; 4x200m Relay 3x Qualifier.

Lauren Shaffer: 4x400m Relay 3x Qualifier; 4x800m Relay 3x Qualifier; 800 Meter Run 2x Qualifier.

Addison Tomsic: 4x800m Relay 2x Qualifier.

Addy Pangle: Pole Vault.

Taylor Cooley: High Jump. 4x200m Relay; 4x400m Relay.

Ella Horn: 4x100m Relay.

Ayla Jackson: 4x100m Relay.

Both teams will be competing at MITCA Team state Saturday, May 23 at Hillsdale College.

South Haven improves to 23-7

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's softball team fell to 23-7 overall on May 16 with a 9-2 loss to Kalamazoo Christian.

Madi Duda had two hits for the Rams while Raegan Hahn and Mia Holtmann both had RBIs.

Addison Dekoning was the losing pitcher allowing six runs on 11 hits.

Earlier in the day, South Haven topped Gobles 6-3. Sofia Grieves was the winning pitcher allowing six hits and three runs in seven innings, striking out one

Kelsey Sherrod took the loss for Gobles.

South Haven had 10 hits. Grieves led the way with three RBIs and two hits. Raegan Hahn and Julia Wiley also had two hits.

South Haven baseball is 21-7-1

Wyatt Dotson had the hot bat for South Haven.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's baseball team has topped the 20-win mark and now has a 21-7-1 record.

South Haven has won seven straight.

On Saturday, the Rams beat Hackett Catholic Prep Irish out of Kalamazoo 10-2.

Charlie Hiatt had four RBIs and four hits with a double, triple and two singles.

Max Verseput was the winning pitcher. He had 13 punchouts, six hits and two runs over seven innings while walking one.

The winners had 13 hits. Matt Dyson, Jake Bosma and Jonathan Bevenio each collected multiple hits for South Haven. Wyatt Dotson stole two baes The Rams stole seven bases as a team.

Also on Saturday, the Rams beat Galesburg-Augusta 16-1.

Wyatt Dotson had the hot bat with five RBIs on two hits. He had a tree-run double and a two-run double.

Mattawan baseball has 3-2 week

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Coach Brett Vaughn's Mattawan baseball team finished last week 3-2.

They started off with 2 wins against conference rival, Portage Northern. Mattawan won game 1 5-4. Patrick Dougherty had 3 hits and 3 RBI to lead the offense, and John Pelak added 2 hits.

Maxx Vanantwerp threw a strong 4.2 innings striking out 5 and getting the victory.

In game 2 Mattawan out hit PN 15-2 and took the 9-0 victory. Liam Walsh, Jack Reiter, Ethan Bouma, and John Pelak each had multi-hit games for the Wildcats. Kaden Jominy threw 6 innings striking out 9 batters.

Friday night Mattawan traveled to the east side of the state to take on Novi. Mattawn got the victory 5-2 behind a strong complete game by Liam Walsh. He allowed 2 runs on 7 hits and struck out 7 in the win. Nolan Jominy and Pat Dougherty each had 2 hits in the game. Nolan Jominy got his first HR of the season in the game.

Saturday Mattawan began the day losing to Lakeland 10-0. Mattawan could only muster 3 hits in the game. After one tough inning allowing 10 runs the Wildcats could not make the comeback.

In the second game they lost a tough one to Macomb Dakota, losing on a walkoff single in the bottom of the 7th inning, losing 4-3. Ryan Willis had 2 hits for the Wildcats, and Nathan Fowler threw a really strong game, only allowing 3 hits, and throwing 6.1 innings and striking out 4.

Lawrence track teams shine

By John Raffel
Correspondent

The Lawrence Tigers delivered a strong performance at the MHSAA Regional 34-4 Championships in Gobles, highlighted by a dominant day from the girls' throws crew. Senior Carolina Mancera captured the regional championship in the discus, breaking the school record with a throw of 117-02, and added a fifth-place medal in the shot put to lead the team.

Evelyn Waite joined her on the podium with a sixth-place finish in the discus, and the girls' 4×400 relay of Carolina Mancera, Kaylin Leyva, Kacey Reyes, and Zoey Soppelsa battled to a sixth-place medal to close out the meet.

The girls also stacked several personal bests. Zoey Soppelsa earned PBs in both the 200m and 400m, while Carolina Mancera and Evelyn Waite each recorded PBs in the discus, marking major progress for the throws group.

On the boys' side, Xavier Glover secured a sixth-place regional medal in the 800, and freshman Evan Broyles added a seventh-place finish in the 3200. Senior thrower Alexander Gardner medaled in both the shot put and discus, placing sixth in each. Lawrence also brought home three relay medals: the 4×200 team of Colton Anders, Jake Theragene, Rendyn Alfieri, and Andon Offord finished eighth; the 4×400 squad of Glover, Theragene, Offord, and Alfieri placed seventh; and the 4×800 relay of Glover, Isaac Keymoole, Alfieri, and Mateo Mancera claimed sixth.

The boys added a strong list of personal bests as well. Colton Anders earned a PB in the 100m, Andon Offord in the 200m, Xavier Glover in the 800m, Isaac Keymoole in the 1600m, and Robert Palacios in the 3200m, rounding out a productive day for the Tigers. In total, Lawrence walked away from Regionals with 11 medal events and nine new personal bests, showcasing depth, toughness, and a rising competitive edge across both squads.

CGI Motorsports features high performance driving instructions to GingerMan Raceway

Brad Pines

By James Windell

Mark came from Elk Grove Village, Illinois on a recent Monday for the excitement.

"It's exciting and I like the thrill of driving fast on a controlled track," says Mark, who brought his 2013 Subaru Impresa WRX to the GingerMan Raceway in South Haven. "People want to drive fast on public roads, but this is the safer and the right place to do it."

As a novice racetrack driver, Mark sat through an orientation session and an instructional meeting for novices before going out on the track with an instructor for training. Even though he had attended a similar track day a couple of years ago, he was still considered a novice.

"I went out on the track when we were scheduled this morning and my car sounded strong at first but then a check engine light came on," Mark says. After leaving the track he worked on his car and he's hoping the problem is cleared up.

"Otherwise," he adds, "it could turn into a short day after my long drive here."

As he turns to look after his Subaru, Mark says: "I enjoy the adrenaline and I also like fixing and building cars. I love building something and then pushing it hard to see if it holds up."

Leah, who lives in Spring Lake, Michigan, just north of Grand Haven, came with her husband and a friend. By 10:00 am, she enjoyed her first ride on the track.

"We're not experts about cars," she says almost apologetically, "but it was so much fun."

Leah said they came to the CGI event because they won a school auction that promised a ride in a car on a racetrack.

"My grandfather had a Mustang and he worked for Ford," Leah says, "he used to do track test drives. He passed away about a year ago and being out on the track today brought up memories of him."

South Haven resident and former race car driver Dana Hullinger, who is also a CGI instructor, says that many participants who come to these Monday events at GingerMan Raceway own high-performance cars, like Porsches, Corvettes, and BMWs.

"They want to use them legally and safely at their limits – something that is not appropriate on public roads," Hullinger says. "People who come here for driving instruction range from ordinary people who want the thrills that come from driving fast around a track to aspiring racecar drivers and even some former racers who want most of the joy without the cost and hassle of maintaining a dedicated race car."

Hullinger points out that police departments sometimes use the GingerMan Raceway for specialized training, like pursuit driving and roadblocks.

"This is probably the fastest growing segment of the sport," explains Hullinger, "and CGI's mission is to provide a safe, fun and engaging day of high-performance driving instruction and coaching."

Phil Mirenda, the founder of CGI Motorsports, came across the GingerMan Raceway in the mid-1990s. He and some friends were looking for a track they could use for a reasonable amount of money. After discovering GingerMan, Mirenda started CGI Motorsports with the sole purpose of providing high performance driving enthusiasts with a ton of track time in a friendly, laid back, and safe environment. The emphasis is on high performance driver's education with an eye toward safety.

That was evident during the 8:30 am orientation session on Monday, May 11, 2026. CGI Motorsports' Chief Instructor Brad Pines conducted the initial orientation session.

"It's a beautiful day at the GingerMan; much warmer than we expected and we're going to have a lot of fun," Pines told the audience of mostly men who had registered for the training. He then showed a slide of rules: "Don't be that guy. Number two is play nice and number three is when someone is passing use a point-by."

Pines said that those who had been at a CGI event before already knew the culture of the organization and that "Our focus is not to make race car drivers of you, but it is recreational high-speed driving and high-performance driving for fun."

During his presentation, Pines emphasized that "We are all about auto racing – not competition. We depend on each other for a safe event."

The safety of drivers was reiterated often by Pines. As when he went over the goals for the assembled drivers: "Be Safe; Be Smooth (as a driver); and Have Fun."

After going over safety tips, Pines sent the drivers out to get acquainted with their instructors and to go out on the track.

Talking about the high-performance track events that CGI Motorsports holds monthly through October at GingerMan Raceway, Pines said that they are proud of their safety record.

"You are far safer driving on GingerMan Raceway during our CGI Motorsports track events than you are while driving around in traffic every day," he said. "We routinely exceed 100 mph several times on each lap of this two-mile-long road course but there are strictly enforced safety rules. In 29 years of running at GingerMan, we've never had a single incident of car-to-car contact."

He explained that GingerMan Raceway is a road course that is different than people may imagine. "GingerMan has 11 different corners in 2.14 miles, and not simply an oval like they would see in a NASCAR race," he said. "It's much more like the tracks driven on by Formula One drivers as seen in 'Drive to Survive' on Netflix."

And he points out that there is a practical side of learning to drive on the track. "Of course, it is something sports car enthusiasts do for recreation and as a challenge, but those skills do translate directly into making winter and slippery driving conditions far safer. High performance driving skills translate directly in safer handling of slippery conditions like we all face every single winter here in West Michigan," he said.

CGI Motorsports will have several High-Performance Track Events at GingerMan Raceway over the next few months. The next one is on June 1, 2026, and there will be one event every month through October, 2026.

For more information or to register for the event, visit CGI's website at https://cgimotorsports.com

A Tree Grows in Elkenburg Park

By James Windell

In an on-going effort to beautify South Haven's Elkenburg Park, the South Haven Garden Club was busy planting flowers and a tree last week.

According to Lisa Stegall, Publicity Chair for the Garden Club, several members braved the brisk winds on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, to add more beauty to the park.

"The South Haven Garden Club had a productive and successful chilly windy planting day at Elkenburg Park," notes Lisa Stegall. "I need to give a shout out to the following rock stars who braved the elements today to get our beautification project going for this season."

She said she is thankful for the efforts of Paula, Carol, Doris, Jody, Lisa and Lydia for sharing in the planting duties. The Club members not only planted a tree, but also an array of perennial flowers and a Lavender Twist Redbud tree. "These plantings are all part of the Garden Club's on-going beautification efforts around the community," Stegall said.

She added that once the flowers begin to bloom and a Garden Club placard is installed, a formal dedication will be planned and announced.

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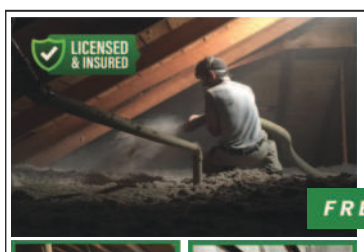

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BLUEGILLS ON THE BEDS

JACK PAYNE

Payne is a member of OWAA (outdoor writers association of America). He is an avid outdoorsperson who enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking and cooking. This column will hopefully enhance your outdoor experiences. "While I may have some knowledge, I am very fortunate that I do know many true experts that share their knowledge with me," said Payne. "Together, hopefully we all can learn and experience more fun in the great outdoors."
Payne resides in southwest Michigan. His column will appear weekly in the Courier Leader/ Flashes.

Birds were chirping, and the voices of kids in play were heard. One moment, my bobber was there; the next time I looked, it was gone. Luckily for me, the bluegill did not spit out the bait.

Countless bluegills have fallen to a properly set-up bobber rig. Many youngsters had their first fishing experience with a bobber, and most likely it was a bluegill.

Caleb with a nice Bluegill

Locating spawning bluegill is perhaps ninety percent of the game. We cruise the shoreline, staying maybe eighty feet out. We use the side-scan transducer to search for areas that look like overlapping moon craters.

Bluegill beds will overlap, looking like a dinner plate. These beds can also be spotted while cruising the shoreline using your polarized sunglasses.

Lily pads hold plenty of bluegills, and on some lakes, they are the best spot. Lily pads are not my first choice, but on lakes with mud or muck and no sand, give the pads a chance.

Bluegills are not overly picky eaters. Worms, wax worms, or spikes will suffice. A properly balanced bobber will be at least sixty percent submerged. Use just enough split shots to balance the float.

Some anglers use a plain hook, others a teardrop. We opt for a teardrop with a size ten hook, our favorite. Tipping it with a wax worm reduces the number of bait-stealing fish. A small, dainty presentation is often inhaled.

A few dedicated anglers I know enjoy using a split-shot rig. With a split shot rig, a small hook or teardrop is used along with one split shot. Anglers cast this rig out, let it sink to the bottom, and then reel it in, maybe four inches at a time. An enjoyable way to fish.

Bluegills and fly rods go hand in hand. No fish offers a new fly angler a better opportunity at success than the bluegill. There was one trip where the fly line wrapped around me as if I s trying to become a mummy.

My favorite fly is either the old plain foam spider or the Bully Spider. The Bully Spider slowly sinks while the foam spider floats. Both re inexpensive to buy or super easy to tie yourself.

Pop, pop, pop, or maybe it's a gurgle, gurgle, gurgle sound. Regardless of the exact noise, a popper does just that. It makes a noise and a disturbance on the surface. And bluegills love it.

As good as the aforementioned fly baits are, a friend of mine makes a living, or at least way more than his share of bluegills using nothing more than a Black Gnat fly. He also uses a 2-weight fly rod.

These baits are so good that I use them year-round, with or without a fly rod. On the beds or in deep water, these fly baits really shine. You can use them under a float when the fish are on the beds.

The real Bully Spider is wrapped with a few strands of wire. It will slowly sink. The Black Gnat and the regular foam spider work great when a small split shot is added. So, you can fish these baits with a fly rod or without.

The mini two-hook spinner rig might be my favorite bluegill bait. I love casting, and with this mini worm harness spinner rig, you can fish it from a foot of water to over 30 feet for suspended fish.

When the bluegill are in the shallows, we cast this eight-harness spinner rig with no additional weight. Cast it out, close your reel, and let it slowly sink down.

Then start a slow retrieve and be prepared for a hard tap. The gills will slam this bait. One suggestion: do not use the skinny red worms; instead, look for a fat garden worm. My first choice is the Belgium worm.

Fishing the beds or shallow water is fun. Lots of action, easy to master, perfect for a family outing or for taking a first-timer out. If you like the thought of a fly rod for trout, try bluegills on a light-weight fly rod. And remember to stop by Bob's Gun and Tackle Shop.

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Gobles Public Schools Notice of Public Hearing On Proposed 2026-2027 Budget

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 8, 2026, at 5:45 o'clock p.m., at Gobles Elementary Cafeteria, 409 N. State Street, Gobles, Michigan, the Board of Education of Gobles Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2026-2027 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2026-2027 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2026-2027 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Superintendent's Office, 409 N. State Street, Gobles, Michigan and available online at the *Gobles Public Schools Website.*

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.[1]

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Susan Dalton-Akers, Secretary

[1]This sentence must be printed in 11-point boldface type as shown.

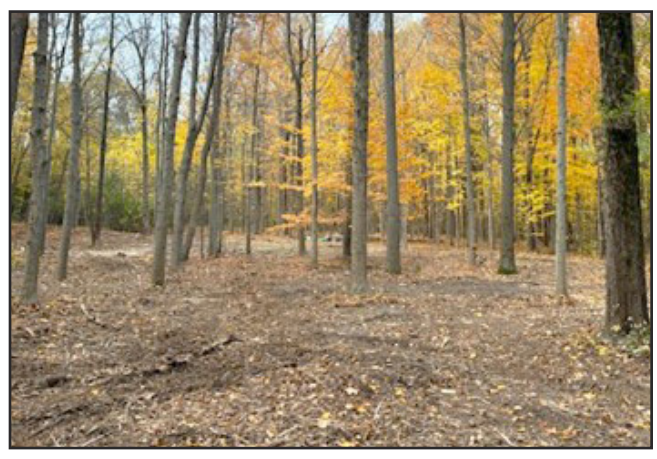
409 N. State Street, P.O. Box 412, Gobles, MI 49055
Phone: (269) 628-9390 Fax: (269) 628-9391

New South Haven Dog Park Receives State Matching Grant Program

The South Haven Bark Park at Riverwoods has received a significant boost from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) as it seeks to conclude its capital campaign for that park development by mid-July of 2026.

New public spaces across Michigan are being created with the support of the Public Spaces Community Places (PSCP) crowdgranting program. The MEDC has announced eight PSCP projects for the spring and summer of 2026, including the South Haven Bark Park at Riverwoods. Every dollar given to the campaign at patronicity.com/SHBarkPark will be matched during the 60-day appeal period from May 18 through July 17, 2026. If the new South Haven Bark Park receives $50,000 during this period, it will win a $50,000 matching grant from the MEDC with funds made possible through the PSCP program.

"The opportunity that the MEDC crowdgranting program is offering to our effort to develop the new South Haven dog park is significant," said local project director Robert Linstrom. "Since the late fall of 2025, the South Haven area community has responded with enthusiasm to our grass roots effort to raise $180,000 to fully fund the new South Haven Bark Park at Riverwoods. This MEDC matching grant program will take us over the top as we develop the new Bark Park in the spring and summer of 2026."



The South Haven Dog Park is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that has teamed up with the South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA) to transform five acres of the emerging Riverwoods Recreation Park into a beautifully wooded and fully fenced-in free municipal dog park. The Bark Park site has been prepared, the fenceline has been marked, and work is underway on the excavation, water hookups, installation of deluxe dog water stations and more in preparation for the fencing phase of the project in the weeks ahead. The Bark Park at Riverwoods will be a combination of open areas for dogs to run and a beautifully wooded campus for both our large and small dog park areas.

"Not only do these placemaking projects transform underutilized space but they create well-loved and well-used public spaces for generations to come, resulting in more vibrant communities across the state," said Paula Holtz, MEDC Managing Director Regional Development "We are proud to provide resources for these efforts through our Public Spaces Community Places program."

VILLAGE OF PAW PAW
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
POLICE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, in August 2017, the Village Council of the Village of Paw Paw voted to raise money by special assessment for police protection pursuant to Act 33 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1951, as amended ("Act 33"). Following a public hearing held by the Village Council on August 14, 2017, the Council adopted a resolution creating the Police Special Assessment District, to defray the costs and expenses of police protection within the Village.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Village Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Paw Paw District Library, 609 W Michigan Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079, Community Room, to review and hear any objections to the special assessment roll spreading the 2026 cost and expenses on all land and premises in the Village not exempt from the collection of taxes under the Michigan General Property Tax Act. The assessments on the roll are to be billed on the July summer tax bill.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Police Fund Budget (Police Protection, Parking Enforcement and Ordinance Enforcement) for the fiscal year commencing March 1, 2026, is estimated at $1,705,700.00 of which $303,167.66 is to be raised by a 3.00 mills ($3.00 per $1,000.00 of taxable value) special assessment levy on all village properties. **This rate is a renewal, not an increase. This millage will be reflected in your summer tax bill, do not pay separately.**

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the proposed special assessment roll may be inspected at Village Hall, 111 E Michigan Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079 on regular business days and may also be inspected at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any person objecting to the said assessment roll shall file a written objection thereto with the Village Clerk before the close of said hearing, or within such further time the Village Council may grant.

AN OWNER OR A PARTY IN INTEREST IN A LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SUBJECT TO A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT MAY FILE A WRITTEN APPEAL OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF CONFIRMATION OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL, BUT ONLY IF SAID OWNER OR PARTY IN INTEREST APPEARS AND PROTESTS THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AT THIS HEARING. An appearance may be made by an owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, in person or, in the alternative, an appearance or protest can be filed with the Village by letter prior to the hearing, in which case a personal appearance at the hearing is not required.

Karla Tacy, Clerk
Village of Paw Paw
111 E Michigan Ave
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-3148

PORTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Porter Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 at the Porter Township Hall, 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, MI 49065, on **Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 6:00 pm.** The proposed budget will take effect July 1, 2026 and end June 30, 2027.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township at (269) 624-4022 x-4.

This notice is published by:

PORTER TOWNSHIP
88040 M-40 HWY
LAWTON, MI 49065
269-624-4022 x-4

Notice of public hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The Village Council of the Paw Paw Village will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.4629 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2026.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 27,2026 at 7:00pm a Paw Paw District Library, 609 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079.

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 2.92% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 1.37% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:
Paw Paw Village
111 E. Michigan Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-3148

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
SYNOPSIS OF MEETING
May 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes
Meeting Called to Order by Supervisor Palenick 6:00 P.M.
Board Members Present: Thomas Palenick, Dennis Reynolds, Rebecca Payne, James DeGroff, Lisa Zinkil
Absent: None
Guest Present: Bryan and Diana Stump, Anne Belecki, Eric Odom, Alice Yonkman, Cathy Arrans, Troy Gentz, Jean Gregory and a few more that did not sign in..

- Approved April 13th and April 28th meeting minutes.
- Approved rental contract with PPPS and 90 days' notice to Fresh Water.
- Approved new contract with Appraisal Plus Group.
- Approved resolution R260511-3 to lower the flag for David Richardson.
- Approved resolution R260511-2 Senior Center Ballot language.
- Approved resolution R260511-1 operating millage Ballot language.
- Approved the acceptance of a partial grant for new cameras.
- Approved Ordinance 298 amending the Floodplain management provisions.

Meeting Adjourned 7:37 P.M.
Rebecca F. Payne, Clerk

Porter Township
Van Buren County
88040 M-40 lawton, MI 49065
Regular Meeting
April 8, 2026
Supervisor Oxley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – Attorney Schuitmaker and eight guests.

- Motion by Packer with support by Smith to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 11, 2026. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Packer to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Packer with support by Nesbitt to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Packer to amend the General Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 in summary form. Total revenue of $1,133,290 less total expenditures of $1,577,104 for a net decrease in fund balance of $443,814. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Bitely with support by Nesbitt to approve conference costs for Clerk Smith to attend the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk Conference at a cost not to exceed $1,000. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to approve funds for engineering and topography studies for the Bankson Lake Sewer project, at a cost not to exceed $50,000. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Bitely to hire Quality Lawn Care to do lawn maintenance for 2026. Motion withdrawn by Bitely.
- Motion by Bitely with support by Smith to hire Complete Outdoor to provide 2026 lawn care service on a per mow basis. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Budget workshop is scheduled for May 13, 2026 at 6:30 pm.
- Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Smith
Porter Township Clerk

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AS TO ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, OR ASSIGNEES OF PATRICIA M. LUKA
AND RANDY M. LUKA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there is presently pending in the Wayne County Circuit Court, State of Michigan, an action between Plaintiff Matthew Earl Hines, and Defendants Any and All Unknown heirs, devisees and assignees of Patricia M. Luka, Any and All Unknown heirs, devisees and assignees of Randy L. Luka, and Hansons Window and Construction, Inc. d/b/a Hansons Window and Siding ; Case No. 26-000677-CH, involving the property commonly known as: 28334 Eton St. Westland, MI 48186. On April 22, 2026, default affidavits and entry were filed by the Court. You may contact Steven A. Jacobs, Schenk & Bruetsch, PLC, 211 W Fort St., Ste 1410, Detroit, MI 48226 with any questions relating to this matter.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Matter of the Lois A. Martin Revocable Trust Dated April 7, 1994, as amended and restated
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The Settlor, LOIS A. MARTIN (date of birth: March 14, 1929), who lived at 54163 Ridgeview Circle, Paw Paw, MI 49079-8632, died March 27, 2026. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.
Creditors of LOIS A. MARTIN, deceased, are notified that all claims against LOIS A. MARTIN or the LOIS A. MARTIN REVOCABLE TRUST DATED April 7, 1994, as amended and restated, will be forever barred unless presented to ANNE C. PUMMELL, Trustee, within four (4) months after the date of publication.
Notice is further given that the Trust assets will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled thereto.
Date: May 12, 2026.
LOIS A. MARTIN REVOCABLE TRUST
DATED APRIL 7, 1994, AS AMENDED AND RESTATED
ANNE C. PUMMELL, Trustee
5664 Highway 441 North
PO Box 532
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

KREIS, ENDERLE, HUDGINS & BORSOS, P.C.
J. RYAN CONBOY (P58590)
Attorneys for Trustee
PO Box 4010
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4010
(269) 324-3000

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case No. and Judge
2026 1073 DE
Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of Larry S. Fragoules
Date of Birth: February 22, 1954
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Larry S. Fragoules, died February 14,2026.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Adam M. Fragoules, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. paw Paw St. # 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
May 11, 2026
Attorney:
Verity Law, PLC
Lisa A. Roelands P78902
660 Ada Drive SE Suite 101
Ada, MI 49301
616-258-7244
Personal Representative:
Adam M. Fragoules
249 Paris Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 4503
616-329-6905

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case No. and Judge
2026 1073 DE
Estate of Thomas D. Borozan
Date of Birth: PII Ref No. 1
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Thomas D. Borozan, died February 16,2004.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Elsie Mary borozan personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. paw Paw St. # 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
May 15, 2026
Attorney:
Jeffrey R. Holmstrom #P29405
830 Pleasant Street, Suite 100
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269-983-0755
Personal Representative:
Elsie Mary Borozan
2384 Mansfield Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-365-9097

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case No. and Judge
2026 1083 DE
Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of Robert L. Lingg
Date of Birth:
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert L. Lingg, died January 19,2026.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Gerald L. Lingg, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. paw Paw St. # 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
May 13, 2026
Attorney:
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, PC
Christopher Moraitis #P87052
181 W. Michigan Ave., Ste. 1
P.O. Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177
Personal Representative:
Gerald L. Lingg
37940 CR 390
Gobles, MI 49055
269-330-6804

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Barbara Lynn Rokos; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 5/14/2026; Atty File #: 521906F02; Insurer: (unknown)
Important mainly because it was sent directly to you
Click to teach Gmail this conversation is not important
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Barbara Lynn Rokos, a single woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Village Capital & Investment, LLC
Date of Mortgage: October 26, 2020
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 30, 2020
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $50,976.11
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 34, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, Hartford Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, described as beginning at the East 1/4 post of said Section 34, thence S 00 degrees 05 minutes 25 seconds W, along the East line of said Section, 1014.42 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described, thence continuing S 00 degrees 05 minutes 25 seconds W, along the said East line, 300 feet to the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of said Southeast 1/4, thence N 89 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds W, along said South line, 300 feet, thence North 00 degrees 05 minutes 25 seconds E, parallel with the East line of said Section, 300 feet, thence S 89 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds E, parallel with the South line of the northeast 1/4 of said Southeast 1/4 300 feet to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 70858 62nd St, Hartford, MI 49057-8659
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: May 14, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1593393
(05-14)(06-04)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Lisa Hoag; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 5/7/2026; Atty File #: 511869F05; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 11, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Lisa Hoag, a single woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services LLC
Date of Mortgage: March 29, 2019
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 4, 2019
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $95,388.15
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Almena, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: THE SOUTH 160 FEET OF THE WEST 680.6 FEET OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST FRACTIONAL 1/4 OF SECTION 7, TOWN 2 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY THEREOF.
Common street address (if any): 30777 M 40, Paw Paw, MI 49079-8520
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: May 7, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1592703
(05-07)(05-28)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Steven Koenig; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 5/7/2026; Atty File #: 529469F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Steven P. Koenig, aka Steven Koenig, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-3
Date of Mortgage: June 1, 2004
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 9, 2004
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $13,604.33
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Porter, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at a point found by starting at the Northwest corner of Section 28, Town 4 South, Range 13 West, thence Easterly on the Section line 99 rods, thence South parallel with the West line of said Section 2814 feet, thence South 33 degrees 48 minutes West 356 feet to the point of beginning of this description, thence continuing South 33 degrees 48 minutes West 60 feet, thence South 52 degrees 0 minutes East to Cedar Lake, thence Northeasterly along said Lake to a point which is South 51 degrees 52 minutes East from said point of beginning, thence North 51 degrees 52 minutes West to said point of beginning. Also, a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress in common with others beginning at a point found by commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 28, Town 4 South, Range 13 West; thence Easter on the North line of said Section, 99 rods; thence South parallel with the West line of said Section, 2814 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 33 degrees 48 minutes West 536 feet; thence North 52 degrees 34 minutes West 33.07 feet; thence North 33 degrees 48 minutes East 464.57 feet; thence North parallel with the West line of said Section to the centerline of Shaw Road; thence Easterly along said centerline to a point 99 rods Easterly on the West line of said Section 28; thence South to said point of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 29383 Shaw Rd, Lawton, MI 49065-9449
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: May 7, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1592416
(05-07)(05-28)

Correction to Pub -> County: Van Buren; Mtgr: LARRY J SMITH; Atty: ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE - RAS CRANE & PARTNERS (CC ON FILE); 1st Pub: 5/7/2026; Atty File #: 26-387556; Insurer: (unknown)
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, MAY BE DEEMED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, GA 30004 ph:470-321-7112 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M on June 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): LARRY J SMITH AND JACQUELINE SMITH. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by LARRY J. SMITH AND JACQUELINE SMITH to FIRST FRANKLIN A DIVISION OF NAT. CITY BANK OF IN, original Mortgagee, for a mortgage dated March 09, 2005, and recorded on March 24, 2005, in Liber 1434 Page 142 in the Van Buren County Register of Deeds. Said mortgage was assigned by said Mortgagee to WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-FF6, as documented by an assignment dated March 17, 2026, and recorded on March 30, 2026, in Liber 1790 Page 481 in the VAN BUREN County Register of Deeds, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $58,549.01. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the Circuit Court within VAN BUREN County, Michigan on June 4, 2026 at 1:00 P.M Said premises are located in the city of BLOOMINGDALE in VAN BUREN County, Michigan and are described as: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PREMISES SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMINGDALE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, AND THE STATE OF MICHIGAN: BEGINNING AT THE WEST QUARTER POST OF SECTION 7, T1S, R14W, THENCE SOUTH 89°43'57" EAST ON THE EAST AND WEST QUARTER LINE, 300.00 FEET, THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH THE WEST SECTION LINE, 132.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89°43'57" WEST 300.00 FEET TO THE WEST SECTION LINE; THENCE NORTH ON SAME 132.00 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Property Address: 5967 46TH ST., BLOOMINGDALE, MI 49026 Tax ID No. 80-05-007-010-20 The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If this property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the Mortgage sale or to the Mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-FF6, Mortgagee/Assignee May 7, 2026 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Mortgagee/ Assignee 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Telephone: 470-321-7112 Facsimile: 404-393-1425 Service Email: MIFCLTeam@raslg.com
(05-07)(05-28)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Lonnie Trulove Jr; Atty: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. - Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.; 1st Pub: 4/30/2026; Atty File #: 23MI00162-3; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, May 28, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Lonnie Trulove Jr, a married man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated January 22, 2015, and recorded on January 27, 2015, in Liber 1613, Page 810, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated July 31, 2025 and recorded July 31, 2025 in Liber 1781, Page 796, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Six and 59/100 ($74,856.59) including interest at the rate of 4.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of the Southeast quarter of Section 28, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, described as follows: Beginning on the East and West quarter line of said Section 28 at a point 1044.56 feet West of the East quarter post of said Section 28, thence West on said quarter line, 273.00 feet to the West line of the East half of the Southeast quarter, thence South 00 degrees 42 minutes 45 seconds East on said West line, 340.00 feet, thence East 273.00 feet, thence North 00 degrees 42 minutes 45 seconds West, 340.00 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 64469 66TH AVE, HARTFORD, MI 49057 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the

Continues on page B7

NOTICE TO WAVERLY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Waverly Township will sponsor a Two Day Clean-up for the residents of Waverly Township.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
JUNE 5 & 6 , 2026
FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. BOTH DAYS
WAVERLY TOWNSHIP HALL 42114 M-43

Attendants will be on duty to check ID'S
You must have identification to prove you are a Waverly Township Resident

THERE WILL BE A TIRE TRAILER AVAILABLE
Will be accepting small and medium size Tractor Tires
WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:
Cement, Chemicals or Hazardous Materials, no dead animals, loose trash, shingles, medical waste, insulation or paint (unless the paint is completely dry and the lid off)

Waverly Township
Tony Millek, Supervisor
269-657-1776

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MSHDA'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON HOME REHAB PROJECT

The Village of Lawton will conduct a public hearing on June 9, 2026 at 7:00PM at 125 S Main Street Lawton, MI 49065 for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for a MSHDA CDBG grant.

The Village of Lawton proposes to use $400,000 CDBG funds for repairs and improvements to homes located within the Village and occupied by low and moderate-income homeowners to address health, safety and energy efficiency needs. The project will benefit 100% low to moderate income persons. Zero persons are anticipated to be displaced as a result of the proposed activities. The Village of Lawton has not received CDBG funds in the past.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed project during the above listed public hearing or in advance of the hearing in writing. To submit written comments in advance of the meeting, contact Village Clerk at brathbun@lawtonmi.org or (269) 624-6407 no later than 10 a.m. on June 5, 2026. Alternatively, comments may be submitted in writing to the Village Clerk at PO BOX 367, 125 S Main Street Lawton, MI 49065.

If you are disabled and require reasonable accommodation for this meeting, contact the Village Clerk at least two business days before the meeting in writing at PO BOX 367, 125 S Main Street Lawton, MI 49065 or by telephone at (269) 624-6407.

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, (MCL 41.72a(2)(3)) and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Todd Hackenberg
Village Manager
Village of Lawton

Village of Lawton
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Fiscal Year 2026 / 2027 Budget

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws 15.261-15.275 and 141.411-141.415, that the VILLAGE OF LAWTON will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 125 S Main Street, Lawton, Michigan.

The purpose of this public hearing is to hear public comment on the proposed budget for Fiscal year 2026-2027. The property tax millage rate proposed to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. Citizens attending this hearing have the right to provide written and oral comments regarding the proposed budget. A copy of the entire proposed budget is available for public inspection after May 26, 2026 during regular business hours at Lawton Village Hall.

Written correspondence for the hearing may be addressed to: The Village of Lawton, PO Box 367, Lawton, MI 49065. This notice is given in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976. Special accommodations for persons with handicapping conditions who plan to attend the meeting will be provided if such persons will contact the Village of Lawton office at 269.624.6407 in advance of the meeting.

Dated: May 25, 2026
Brittany Rathbun
Lawton Village Clerk

CLASSIFIEDS

• HELP WANTED •

LIVE-IN KENNEL HELP WANTED and lawn work, free rent, call for information, physically fit male, 269-400-0516

• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING. Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

CALL A PRO HANDYMAN SERVING LAWRENCE AND SURROUNDING AREAS 269-903-6397.

PERRY'S PERFECT PITCH PIANO TUNING Homes-Churches-Schools, Call 269-999-4440.

GARAGE SALE

ANNUAL HUGE GARAGE SALE: 31419 M-40 (just North of M-43) May 22 - 24. Estate items, antique and other furniture, dishes and lots of vintage and other household goods, Name-brand women's clothes and accessories. Much more. 8:30 am

YARD SALE- THURS-MON, MAY 21-25, 45 haywagon loads, antiques to junk, barn full of furniture, 2 floors, plus addition on house, beds, dressers, couches and chairs; several dining sets; nightstands; metal shelves; hundreds of boxed lots of misc; antique dishes; a lot of kitchen stuff; blankets; tools; a lot of stuff not normally seen on sales from several estates, worth the drive. Located M-40, south of Allegan or north of Gobles, 108th Ave (Pullman Rd.) west, sixth house on right. 3333 108th Ave, Allegan, 49010, 8 am to 6 pm daily.

• FOR SALE •

BOAT FOR SALE- 1988 Bass Trakker, 45 hp Mercury, $2900 or OBO, 269-360-1656.

• FREE •

FREE ROOFING TAR 5 gallon buckets or 55 gallon drum, 269- 599-4561

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VILLAGE OF PAW PAW
Notice of Master Plan Public Review

The Village of Paw Paw Planning Commission is in the process of updating the Village Master Plan. On Monday, May 11, 2026, the Village of Paw Paw Village Council accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission to initiate the required public review period, which begins upon publication of this notice. A draft of the proposed Master Plan update is available for review at Paw Paw Village Hall during regular business hours or online at www.pawpaw.net.

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Paw Paw Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 7 p.m. at Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI 49079. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comment regarding the proposed Master Plan update.

All interested persons are encouraged to review the plan and offer any comments in writing or in person at the hearing. Written comments may be submitted in person, by mail or electronically to Village Clerk Karla Tacy at k.tacy@pawpaw.net or Village of Paw Paw, 111 E Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079. Comments may be submitted any time prior to the hearing.

For further information, contact Village Manager Bryan Myrkle at (269) 415-5803.

VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE
Van Buren County, Michigan
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: that a Public Hearing of the Village Council of the Village of Lawrence will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 beginning at 5:30 pm prior to the Common Council Meeting at the Village Hall Office located at 157 N. Paw Paw St. in Lawrence.

The purpose of the hearing is to solicit public comment on a proposed dedicated millage to provide support for the Lawrence Police Department as allowed under PA 33 of 1951.

Those unable to attend are invited to submit written comments to the Village Council at the Village Hall address 157 N. Paw Paw, Lawrence, MI 49064. All written comments must be received no later than 4:00pm, June 2, 2026. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations to participate or wishing to email comments should contact Clerk Kelly Johnson at 269- 674-8161 or office@lawrencemi.org by June 2, 2026. Office hours are between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 12 Noon.

Kelly Johnson
Village Clerk

Township of Antwerp
24821 Front Avenue, Mattawan MI

NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Antwerp Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 at the Antwerp Township Hall, 24821 Front Ave, Mattawan, Michigan, on Tuesday June 2nd at 6:00pm. **THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.** A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at Antwerp Township Hall.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA167 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72 (2)(3) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Services for individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed material being considered at the meeting will be provided upon 5 days notice to the Antwerp Township Board. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids and Note: This meeting is planned to be held at the Township offices at 24821 Front Street Mattawan.

You may also email creyna@antwerptownshipmi.gov to confirm this information on or after this date:

Chantel Reyna
24821 Front Avenue
Mattawan, MI 49071
269-668-2615 x-200
Antwerp Township Clerk
May 21, 2026

VILLAGE OF PAW PAW
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, MICHIGAN

At a regular meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Paw Paw (the "Village"), Van Buren County, Michigan, held at the Paw Paw District Library, 609 W Michigan Ave, in the Village, on the 11 day of May, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Members: Plaszczak, Craddock, Rohr, Martinez, McQueen, Richardson

ABSENT: Members: N/A

The following preamble and ordinance were offered by Member Martinez and seconded by Member Rohr:

ORDINANCE NO. 26-01

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW

Regulation of Shipping Containers

THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW ORDAINS:

Section 1. **Definitions.** Section 42.3, Definitions of the Zoning Ordinance for the Village is hereby amended to add the definition of "Shipping Container," which shall read in its entirety as follows:

Shipping Container. A large box, with or without a roof or a chassis and/or wheels underneath, designed primarily for shipping or hauling materials, but which is also suitable for storage of materials. Examples of such containers intermodal freight containers, site boxes, pods, semi-trailers when used for storage, roll-off dumpsters and similar containers.

Section 2. **Accessory Buildings.** Section 42.370 shall be amended by the addition of Subsection 42.370(d), which shall read as follows:

(d) The following regulations apply to shipping containers:

1. It shall be unlawful to site a shipping container in a residential district, as depicted on the Village's Official Zoning Map and within the corporate limits of the Village, for use as a storage shed or garage, except as provided under section 2 below.
2. The Zoning Administrator may authorize placement of a shipping container in a residential district within the Village for a period not to exceed three months, for use as temporary storage, however such authorization shall not be construed as a building permit or a zoning permit, and a shipping container may not be relocated to a new site on the subject property in order to extend the allowable timeframe for placement. Such authorization shall be documented and retained by the Zoning Administrator, and shell specify the location upon the subject property, which should require a site behind the building setback lines established by the applicable residential zoning district of the Village Zoning Ordinance, unless the Zoning Administrator determines such placement is not possible.
3. Any person placing a shipping container in a residential district within the Village without having received authorization from the Zoning Administrator, or who fails to remove such container so authorized within the three-month timeframe hereby established shall be guilty of a Municipal Civil Infraction and subject to such fines and penalties as established in Division 2 of the Village of Paw Paw Code of Ordinances.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective seven days after its publication or seven days after the publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation in the Village.

AYES: Members: Plaszczak, Craddock, Rohr, Martinez, McQueen, Richardson

NAYS: Members: N/A

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Paw Paw at a regular meeting held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Karla Tacy, Clerk
Village of Paw Paw

ORDINANCE ADDRESSING FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS OF THE STATE CONSTRUCTION CODE

Community Name: Paw Paw Township, County: Van Buren
Ordinance number 298

An ordinance amendment to affirm an enforcing agency to discharge the responsibility of the Township of Paw Paw located in Van Buren County, and to designate regulated flood hazard areas under the provisions of the State Construction Code Act, Act No. 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended.
The Township of Paw Paw ordains:

Section 1. AGENCY DESIGNATED.
Pursuant to the provisions of the state construction code, in accordance with Section 8b(6) of Act 230, of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, the Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Pluming Code Officials of the Township of Paw Paw is hereby designated as the enforcing agency to discharge the responsibility of the Township of Paw Paw under Act 230, of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, State of Michigan. The Township of Paw Paw assumes responsibility for the administration and enforcement of said Act throughout the corporate limits of the community adopting this ordinance.

Section 2. CODE APPENDIX ENFORCED.
Pursuant to the provisions of the state construction code, in accordance with Section 8b(6) of Act 230, of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, Appendix G of the Michigan Building Code shall be enforced by the enforcing agency within the jurisdiction of the community adopting this ordinance.

Section 3. DESIGNATION OF REGULATED FLOOD PRONE HAZARD AREAS.
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Entitled **"Van Buren County, Michigan (All Jurisdictions) #26159CV000B"** and dated 11/16/2023 and the Flood Insurance Rate Map(s) (FIRMS) contained on index panel number(s) 26159C: 0215C, 0330C, 0335C, and 0350C dated 12/03/2009 and 26159CINDOB dated 11/16/2023 are adopted by reference for the purposes of administration of the Michigan Construction Code, and declared to be a part of Section 1612.3 of the Michigan Building Code, and to provide the content of the "Flood Hazards" section of Table R301.2(1) of the Michigan Residential Code.

Section 4. MOST RESTRICTIVE STANDARDS.
If another ordinance contains standards inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, the most restrictive standards shall apply.

Section 5. PUBLICATION.
This ordinance duly adopted on May 11, 2026 at a regular meeting of the Township of Paw Paw and will become effective May 29th, 2026

Signed on 5/12/2026 by Rebecca F Payne,
Clerk of the Township of Paw Paw.

Attested on 5/12/2026 by Thomas Palenick,
Supervisor of the Township of Paw Paw.

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

Continues from page B5

property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: April 30, 2026 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 23MI00162-3
(04-30)(05-21)

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AS TO ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, OR ASSIGNEES OF PATRICIA M. LUKA AND RANDY M. LUKA PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there is presently pending in the Wayne County Circuit Court, State of Michigan, an action between Plaintiff Matthew Earl Hines, and Defendants Any and All Unknown heirs, devisees and assignees of Patricia M. Luka, Any and All Unknown heirs, devisees and assignees of Randy L. Luka, and Hansons Window and Construction, Inc. d/b/a Hansons Window and Siding ; Case No. 26-000677-CH, involving the property commonly known as: 28334 Eton St. Westland, MI 48186. On April 22, 2026, default affidavits and entry were filed by the Court. You may contact Steven A. Jacobs, Schenk & Bruetsch, PLC, 211 W Fort St., Ste 1410, Detroit, MI 48226 with any questions relating to this matter.
(05-21)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Village of Lawton will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of Village Hall, 125 S. Main St., on the application from James Johnson regarding his property located at 523 E 3rd St, in the Village of Lawton, Michigan (Parcel # 80-45-100-125-00).

The application is for a variance on the fence height to be 6 ft tall, where in a front yard, the allowed height is to be no greater than 3 feet tall. The applicable Village of Lawton Ordinance section and provisions are: Zoning Ordinance Section 8.04—Fences, Walls, and Screening. The application and related materials can be reviewed or purchased at the Village of Lawton Clerk's Office at 125 S. Main St. Lawton, MI 49065 during Business Hours Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm before Memorial Day, or Monday through Thursday 6:00am-4:30PM after Memorial Day, or by contacting office staff at (269)624-6407.

All interested parties are invited to attend and present comments on the requested variance. Written comments concerning the variance request may be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals by Friday, June 5, 2026 by mail addressed to: Village of Lawton, PO Box 367, Lawton, MI 49065 or by email to clerk@lawtonmi.org.

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk
Village of Lawton

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES

The Lawrence Village Council of the LAWRENCE VILLAGE name of governing body name of taxing unit will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.4046 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2026

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM day date time a.m./p.m. at Lawrence Village Hall, 157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064.

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 2.70% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by -0.15% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:
Lawrence Village
157 N. Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
269-674-8161

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Van Buren County is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide Third-Party Administrator (TPA) services for the implementation of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Homeowner Rehabilitation Program funded through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) MI Neighborhood Program.

The selected firm will provide full grant administration services including program development, housing inspections, procurement oversight, environmental review assistance, financial management, and compliance monitoring for a countywide homeowner rehabilitation program.

Proposals are due no later than June 3, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

The complete Request for Proposals is available on the Van Buren County website at www.vanburencountymi.gov and may be obtained by contacting: Lisa Ransler, Community Services Director, Van Buren County Community Services Department, 219 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 201, Paw Paw, MI 49079, RanslerL@vanburencountymi.gov.

Written questions must be submitted by May 22, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Van Buren County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. This procurement is subject to 2 CFR Part 200 federal procurement requirements. Woman-Owned (WBE), Minority-Owned (MBE), and Veteran-Owned (VBE) businesses are encouraged to respond.

Date of Publication: May 21, 2026

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
Zoning Board of Appeals
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing to consider a Variance Request received from **David and Krystil Hoexum,** for property located at **23735 French Ave.** requesting a variance from the Village of Mattawan Zoning Ordinance Article 14 Section 14.20 (A) #4 Accessory Buildings and Structures.

1169-B5B 12-3-13 861-543 701-152 954-412 1136-101 1349-8 1622-46 *** W 132' OF E 1/2 N 1/4 NW 1/4 NW 1/4. EX N 2 R THEREOF.

The variance, if granted, would allow for construction of an accessory building in the front yard.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing on said request will be held on **June 8, 2026, before the Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:00 p.m.** in the Village meeting room at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The meeting will be held at the address below. Please send all written comments to:

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue
Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128
offices@mattawanmi.com

Jolie Storm-Artis
Village Clerk
May 14, 2026

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GOBLES HIGH SCHOOL

2026 GRADUATES

MAY 28TH 2026, AT 7:00 PM
GOBLES FOOTBALL FIELD

Hunter Daniel Babcock
Breanna Lynn Barnhart
Charles Anthony Bartlett
Aiden Earl Beam
Halle Lynn Bigelow
Jose Nicolas Boger
Alexis A'Shane Brown
Willow Rodney Bucholtz
Cole Edward James Cannon
Sofia Joy Chapman
Colton Edward Colingsworth
Madison Marie Cooley
Claire Anne Devers

Adriana Rose Dickerson
Devin William Doorlag
Rodney Bruce Furbush
Jayden Bryce Gable
Vernon F Gable
Liliana De La Luz Garcia
Tucker Karl Greffe
Johnny-Ray Allene Grice
Kyla Shae Hagen
Loretta Lynn Hammond
Makenna Breane Hunt
Brett Thomas Ivester
Carson Ranger Bradley Jackson

Daisy Mae Jackson
Hunter Michael Jacobs
Steven Jedidiah Juarez
Kylee Caitlin Killeen
Gavin Marshall Lanting
Shawn Robert Douglas Martin
Caitlin Gracie McCartney
Ethan Jaykob Montague
Conner Lee Morris
Aden Zachary Newberry
Kimberlee Ann Paige Newland
Mason Michael Northrup
Jayden John Otis

Payton Roque Pasek
Alexander Thomas Platt
Ismael Ramos Martinez
Nathan James Ray
David Lee Sager
Anthony Luis Salinas
Charley Rae Strand
Madelyn Kay Summerville
Taleigh Rose Sylvester
Alexander Ely Walker
Elianna Victoria Wood

2026 FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Vittoria Bisso, Celia Gabrielle DuFermont, Lucia Martin-Almodovar, Manuel Moraleja Canon, Giulia Rasponi, Tuomas Artturi Reunanen

CLASS OF 2026 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS

Aiden Beam
Halle Bigelow
Madison Cooley
Claire Devers
Adriana Dickerson
Tucker Greffe

Brett Ivester
Daisy Jackson
Steven Juarez
Kylee Killeen
Aden Newberry
Kimberlee Newland

Nathan Ray
Anthony Salinas
Charley Strand
Madelyn Summerville
Elianna Wood